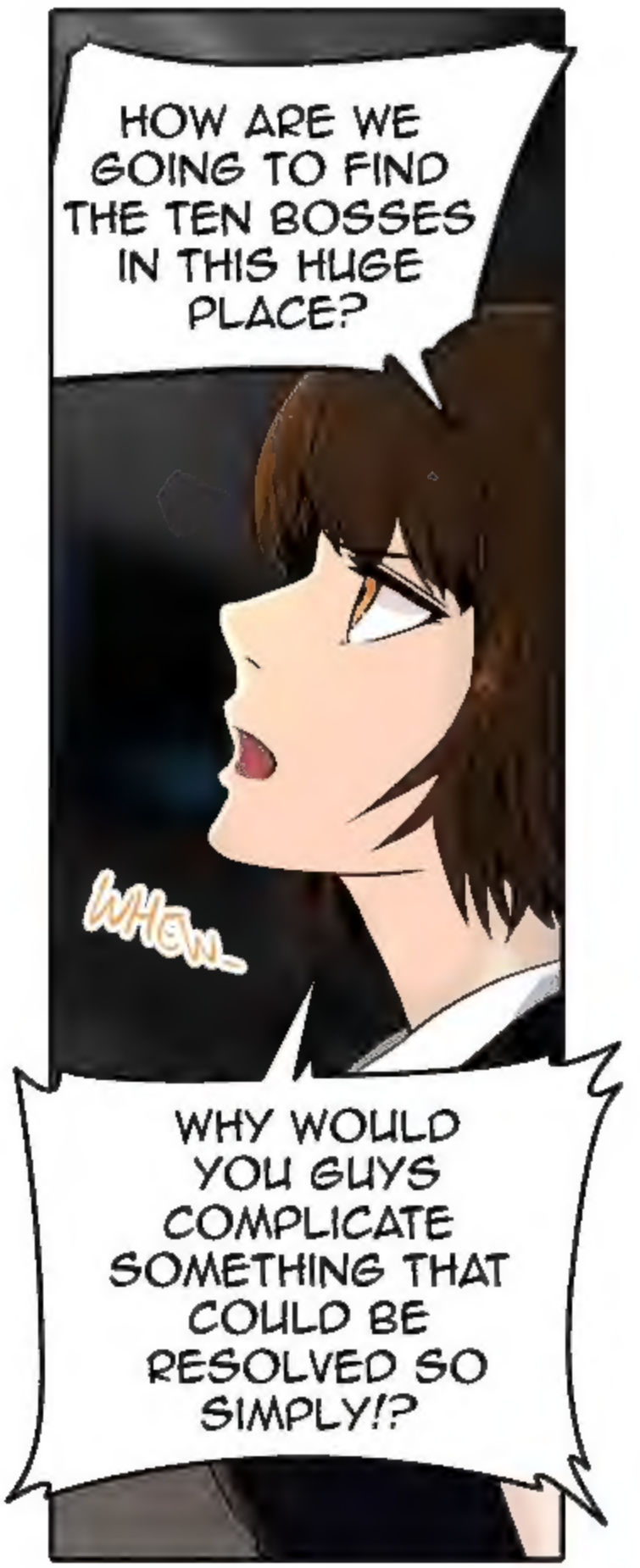
CRAP..


HOW ARE WE GOING TO FIND THE TEN BOSSES IN THIS HUGE PLACE?
WHEW...
WHY WOULD YOU GUYS COMPLICATE SOMETHING THAT COULD BE RESOLVED SO SIMPLY!?

HOPE THEY JUST COME AT ME FIRST-

ssssssss

COME
OUT-

WHISH
WHOEVER YOU ARE.

Talse uzer story by Slave. In. Utero

Tower of God

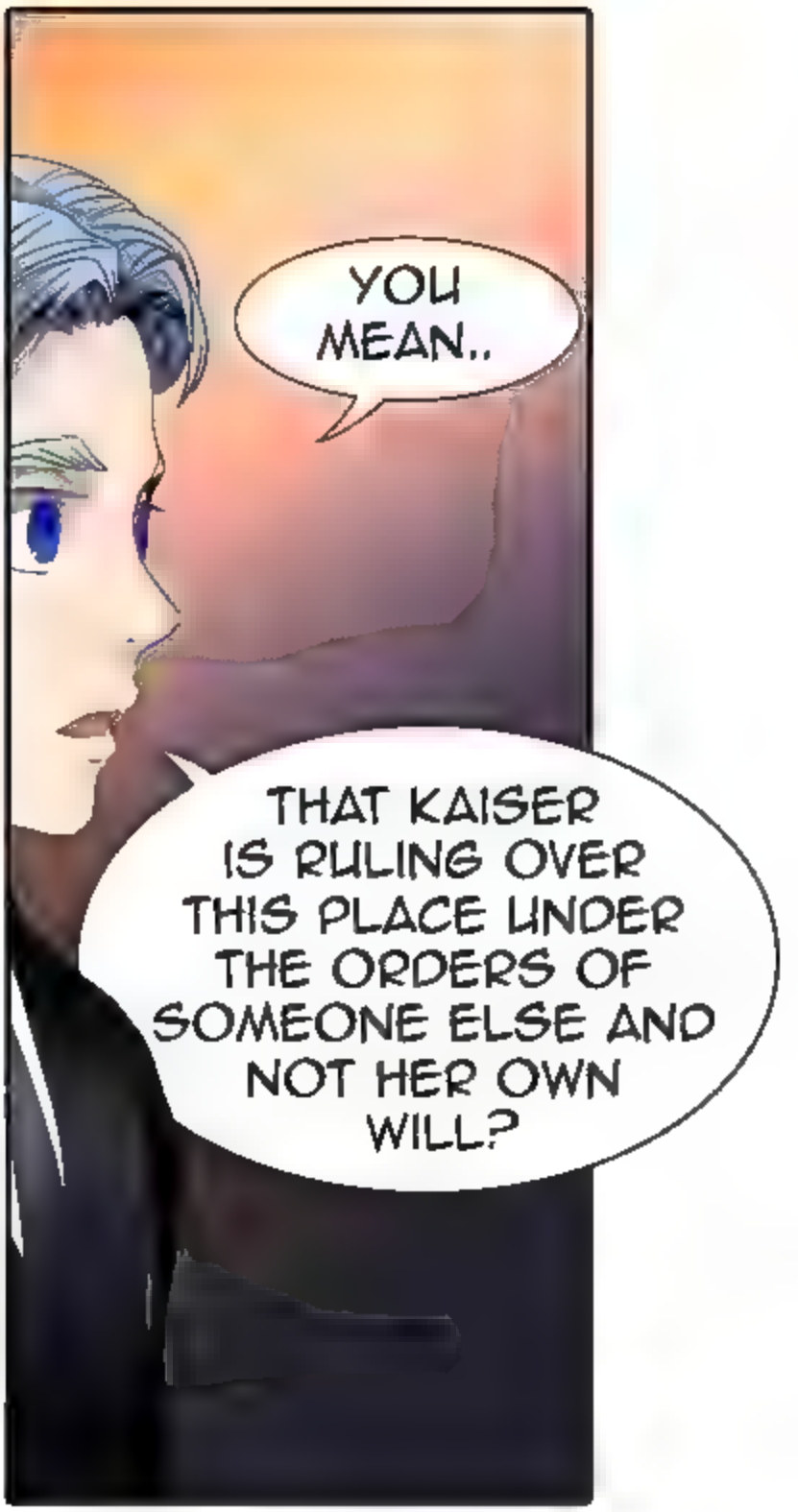
39F

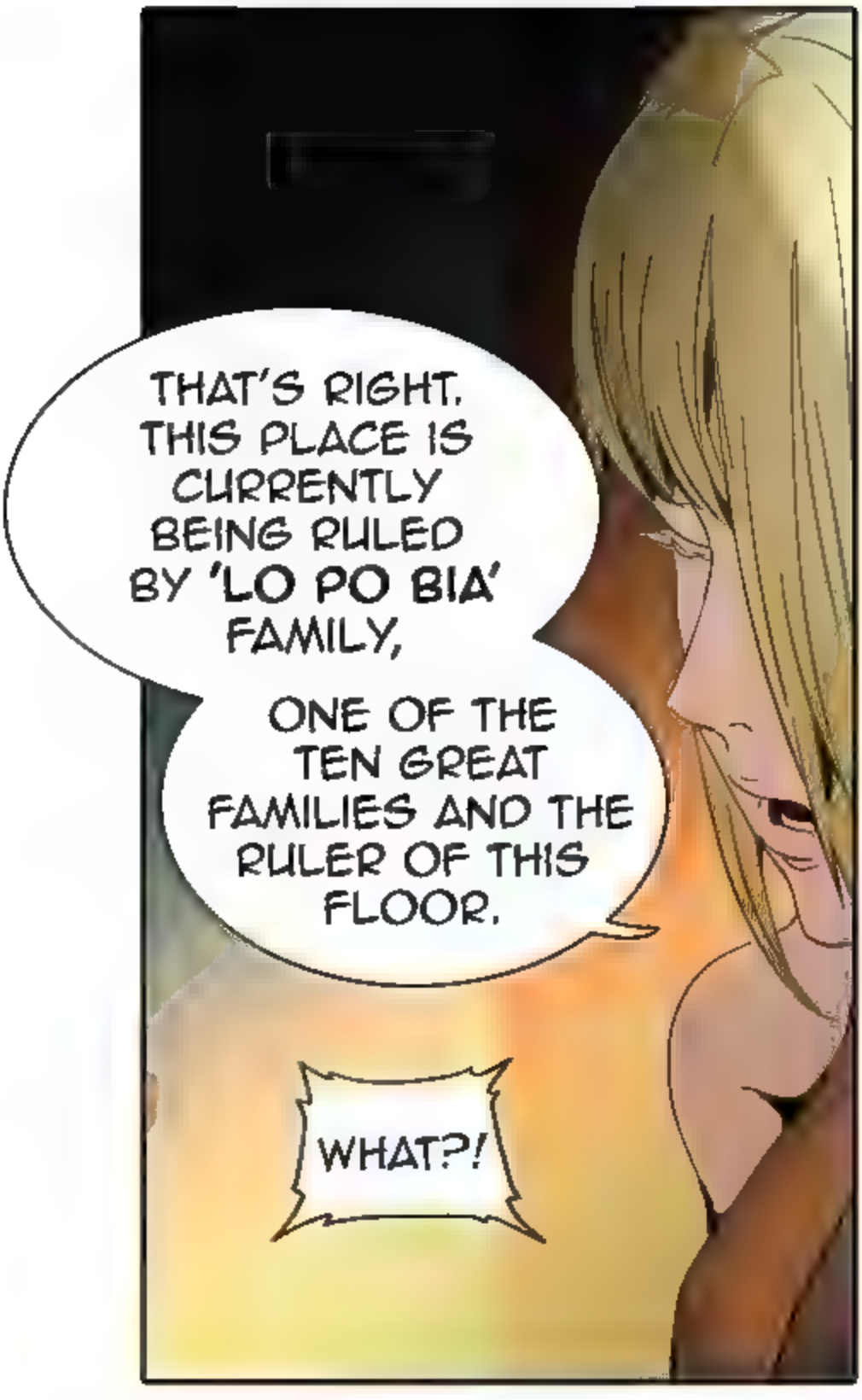
THE HELL TRAIN
- THE 'NAME HUNT' STATION -

15

WHAT..?

KAISER.. IS BEING RESTRAINED?
WHAT DO YOU MEAN..?


YOU MEAN..
THAT KAISER IS RULING OVER THIS PLACE UNDER THE ORDERS OF SOMEONE ELSE AND NOT HER OWN WILL?


THAT'S RIGHT. THIS PLACE IS CURRENTLY BEING RULED BY 'LO PO BIA' FAMILY,
ONE OF THE TEN GREAT FAMILIES AND THE RULER OF THIS FLOOR.
WHAT?!

KAISER IS FROM THE LO PO BIA FAMILY, TOO.
SHE'S NOT IN THE DIRECT LINE, BUT SHE WAS A RISING STAR WITH EVEN GREATER SKILLS THAN THEM.
SHE WAS WHAT YOU MIGHT CALL A 'GENIUS.'

AND IN THE YEAR THAT SHE TURNED 14, THE JAHAD FAMILY,
WHICH HIGHLY VALUED HER OUTSTANDING POTENTIAL,

IS SAID TO
HAVE SELECTED HER
TO BE THE PRINCESS
OF JAHAD.

WHAT!?
THE PRINCESS
OF JAHAD?!
WHOOSH

KAISER... WAS CHOSEN TO BE THE PRINCESS OF JAHAD?!
BUT WHY IS SHE LIKE THIS NOW...?

...IT'S A COMPLICATED STORY.

DO YOU KNOW ABOUT THE LO PO BIA FAMILY?

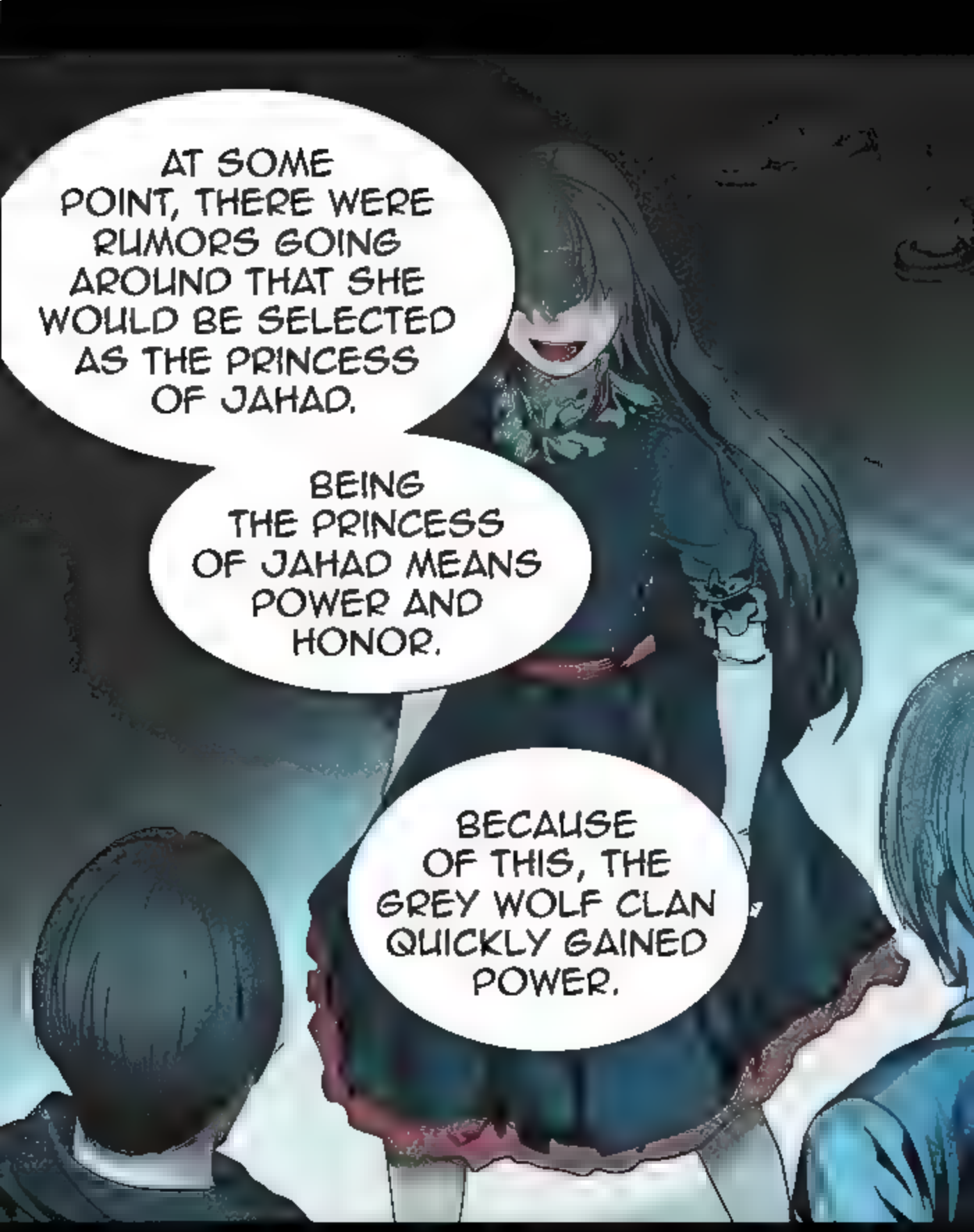
WELL.. SORT OF.

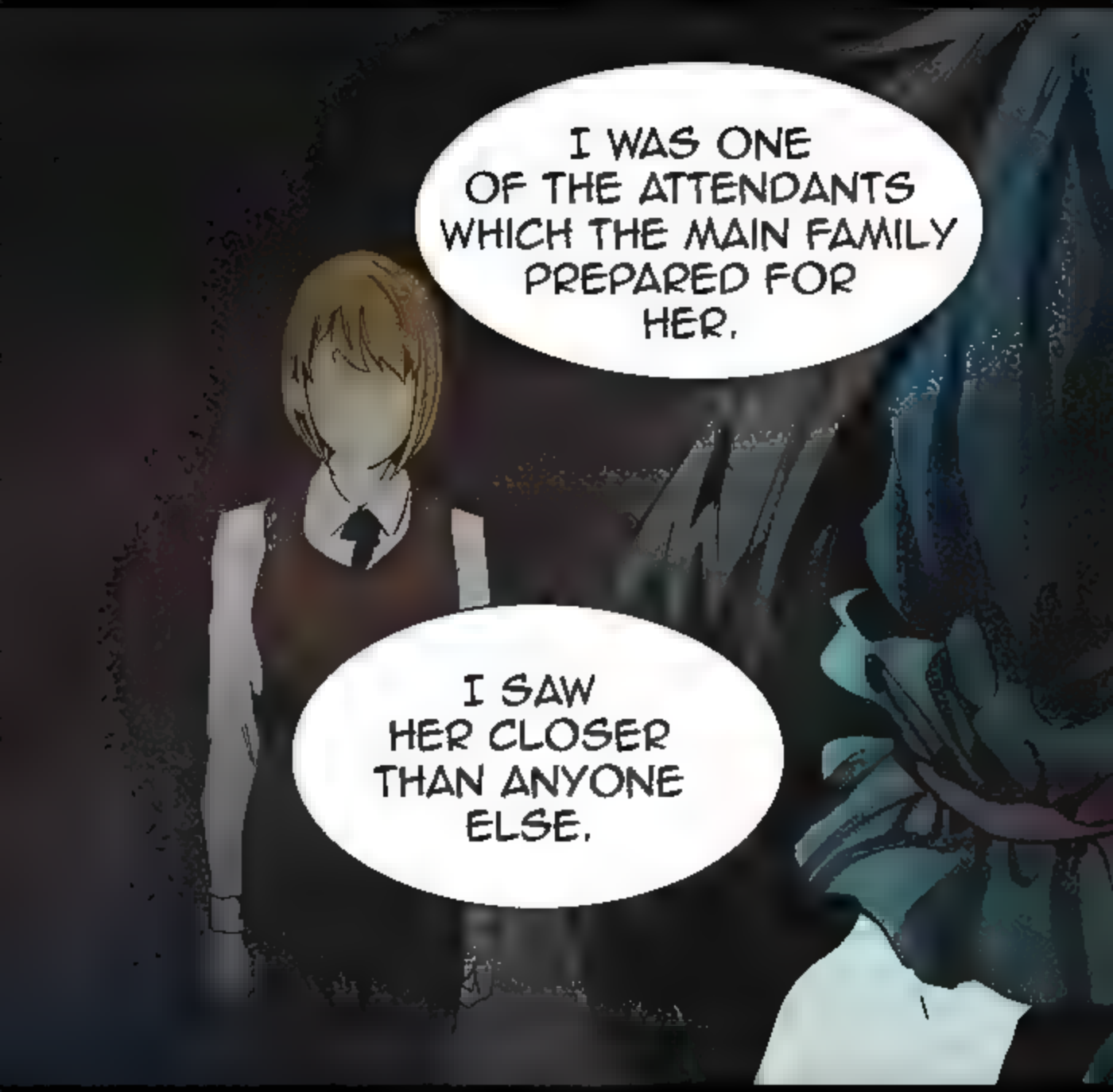
THE HEAD OF THE LO PO BIA FAMILY IS THE STRONGEST ANIMA IN THE TOWER.
IT'S SAID THAT HE WAS ABLE TO COMMAND EVERY MYSTICAL CREATURE, ANIMAL AND EVEN HUMAN IN THE TOWER.
MOST OF HIS CHILDREN ARE BORN WITH TALENTS.

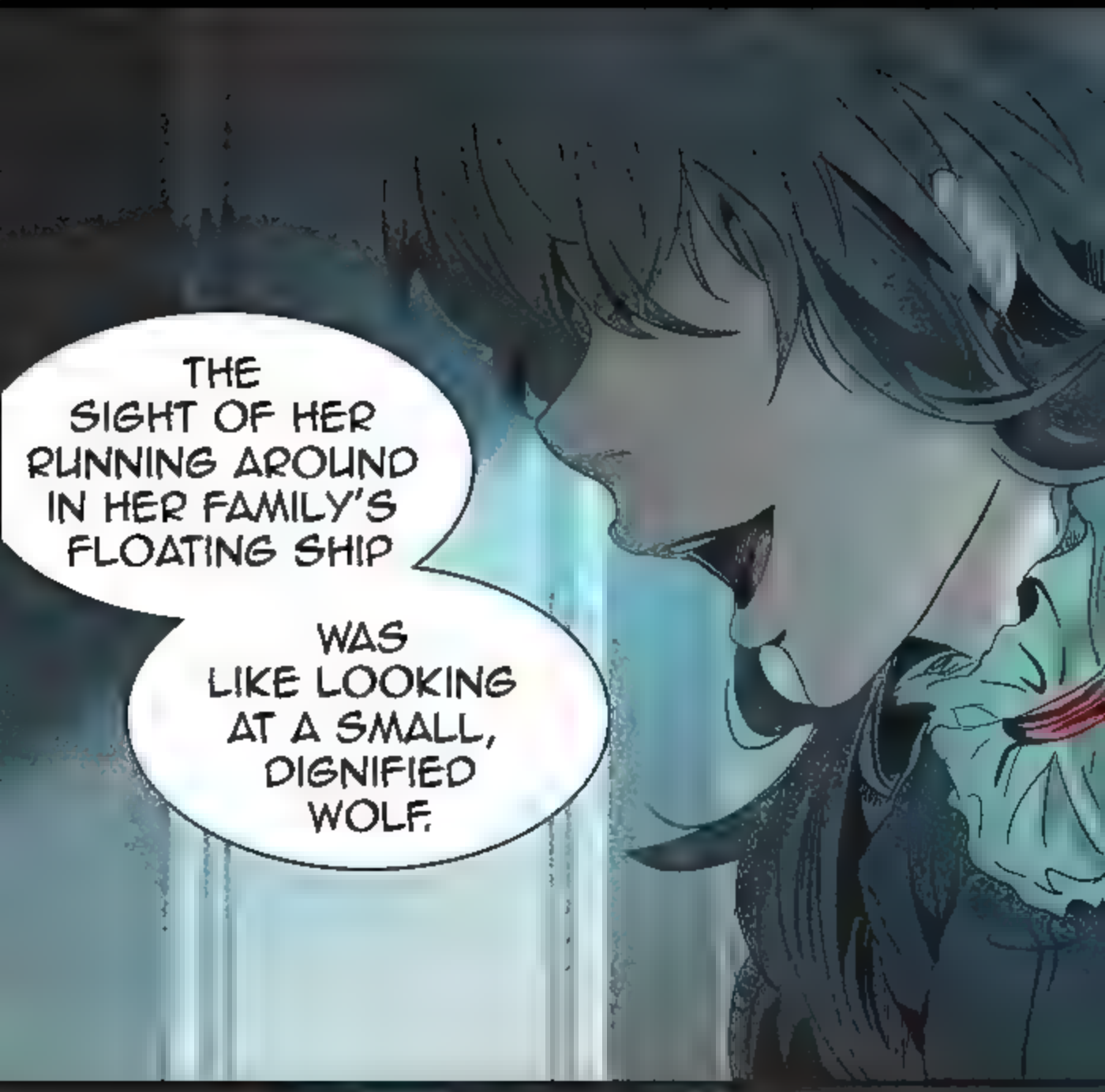
THE LO PO BIA FAMILY IS DIVIDED INTO 20 " CADET BRANCHES" HEADED BY THE 20 ANIMALS WHICH HE COMMANDED.

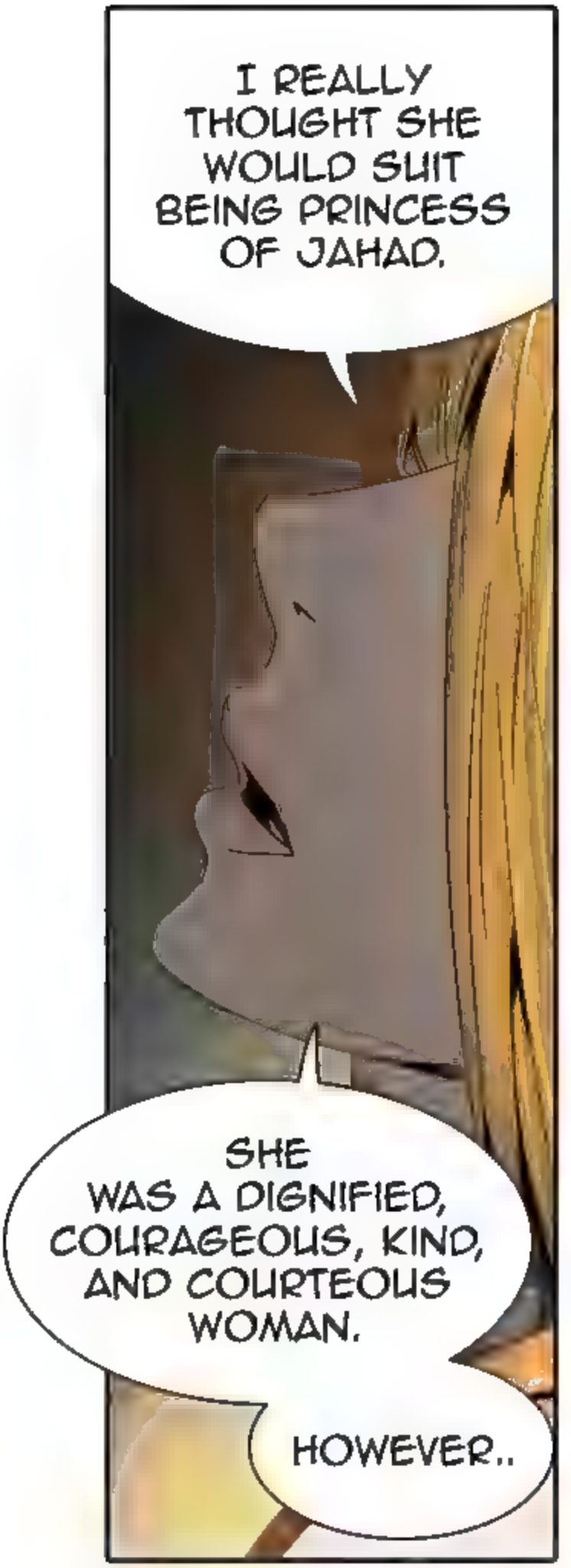
EACH OF THE BRANCHES IS BORN WITH DIFFERENT 'SPECIAL ABILITIES.'

KAISER WAS FROM THE 'GREY WOLF' FAMILY, ONE OF THE 20 BRANCHES.
THE 'GREY WOLF' FAMILY WAS A BRANCH WHICH DIDN'T REALLY HAVE ANYTHING SPECIAL ABOUT IT COMPARED TO OTHER BRANCHES.

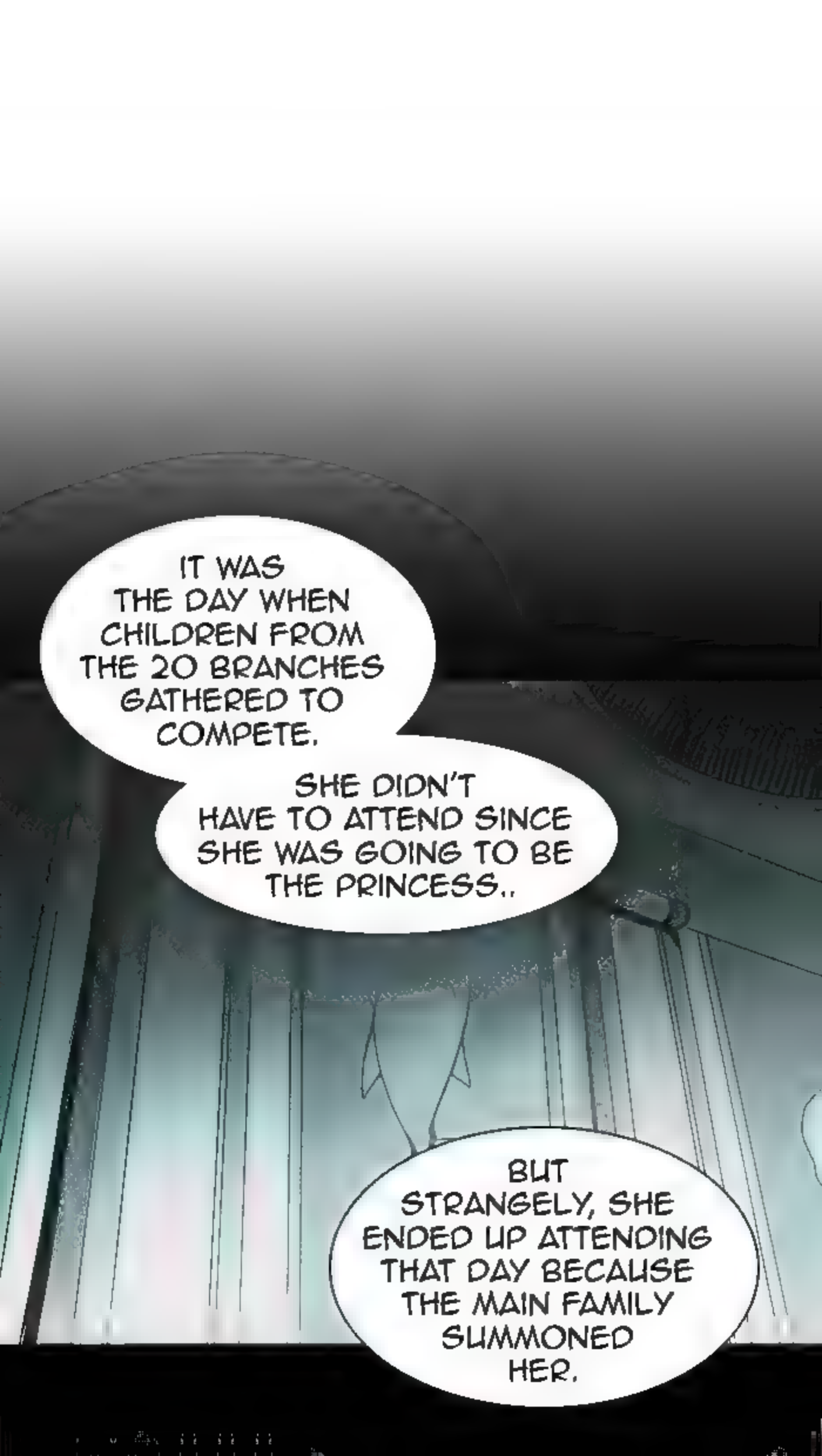

AT SOME POINT, THERE WERE RUMORS GOING AROUND THAT SHE WOULD BE SELECTED AS THE PRINCESS OF JAHAD.
BEING THE PRINCESS OF JAHAD MEANS POWER AND HONOR.
BECAUSE OF THIS, THE GREY WOLF CLAN QUICKLY GAINED POWER.

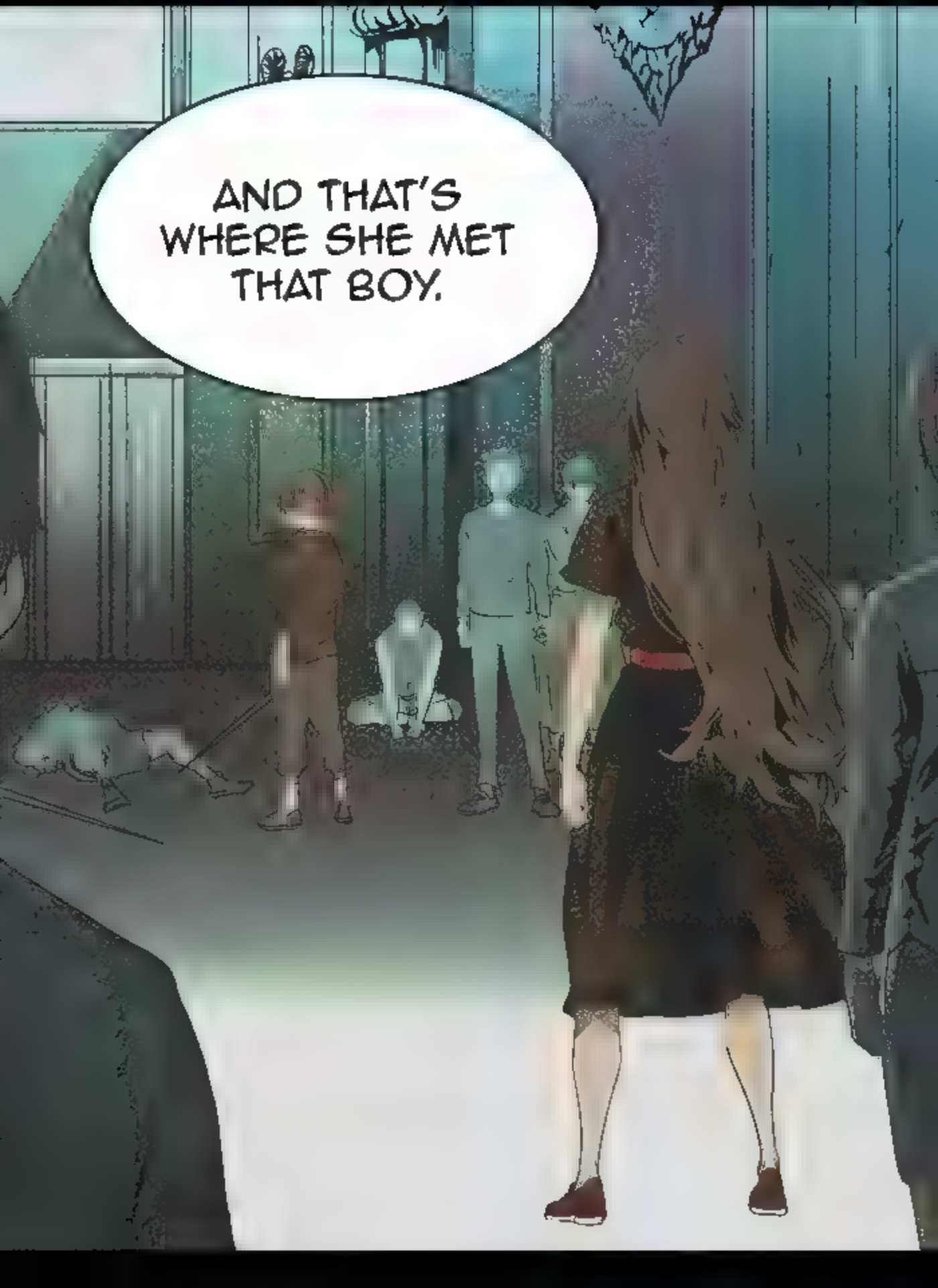

I WAS ONE OF THE ATTENDANTS WHICH THE MAIN FAMILY PREPARED FOR HER.
I SAW HER CLOSER THAN ANYONE ELSE.

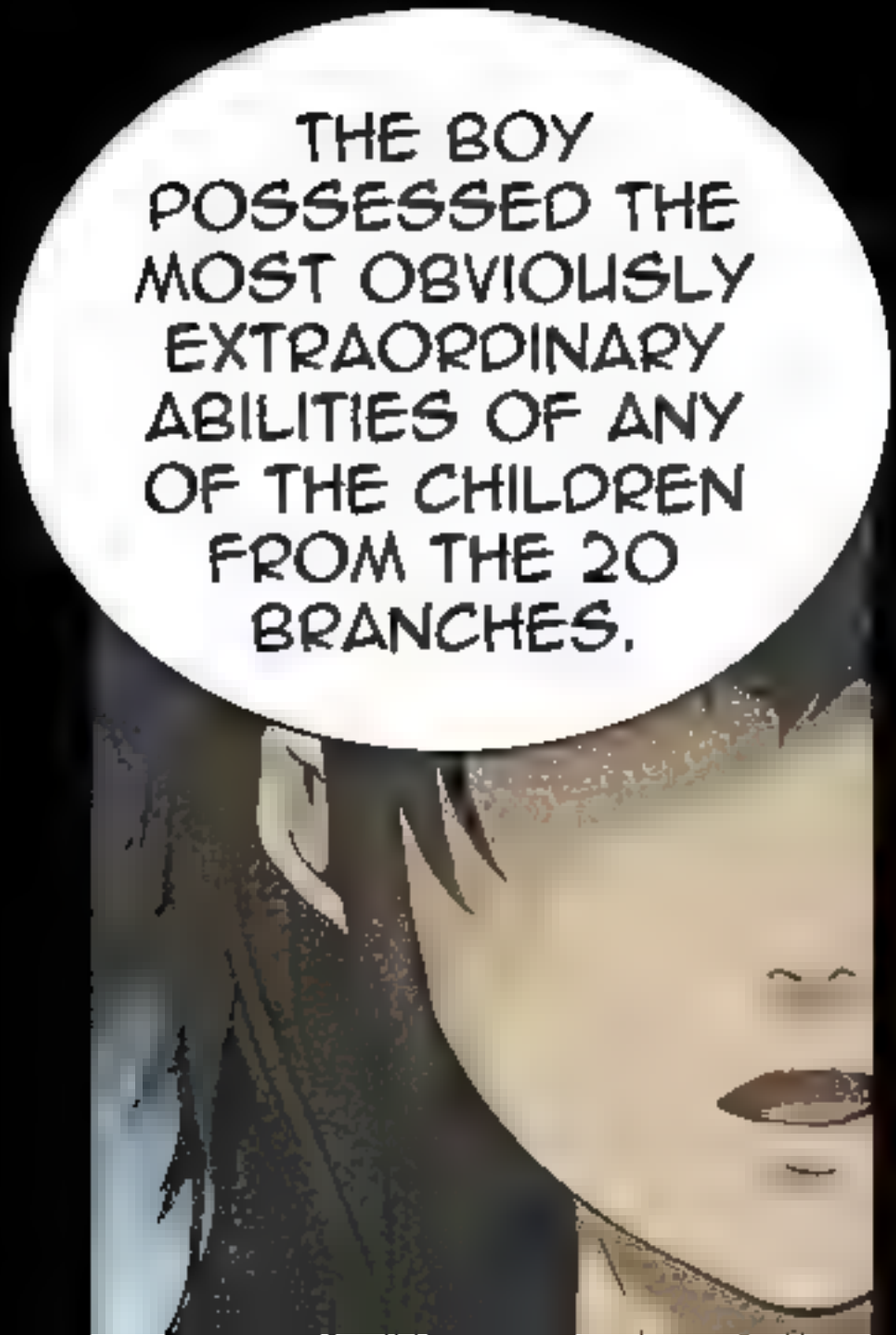

THE SIGHT OF HER RUNNING AROUND IN HER FAMILY'S FLOATING SHIP
WAS LIKE LOOKING AT A SMALL, DIGNIFIED WOLF.


I REALLY THOUGHT SHE WOULD SUIT BEING PRINCESS OF JAHAD.
SHE WAS A DIGNIFIED, COURAGEOUS, KIND, AND COURTEOUS WOMAN.
HOWEVER..

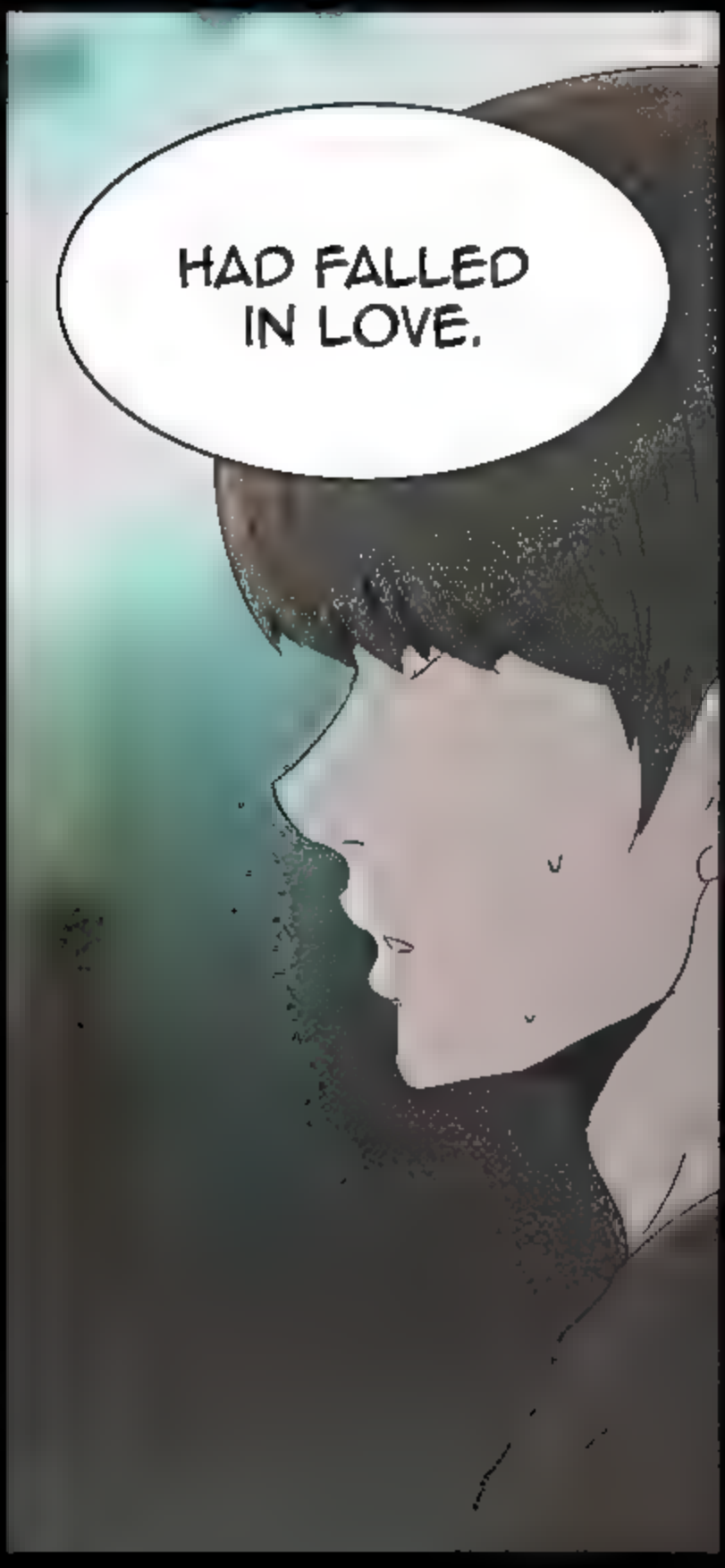
A WEEK BEFORE SHE WENT TO THE JAHAD PALACE..
THAT 'INCIDENT' HAPPENED.
..?!

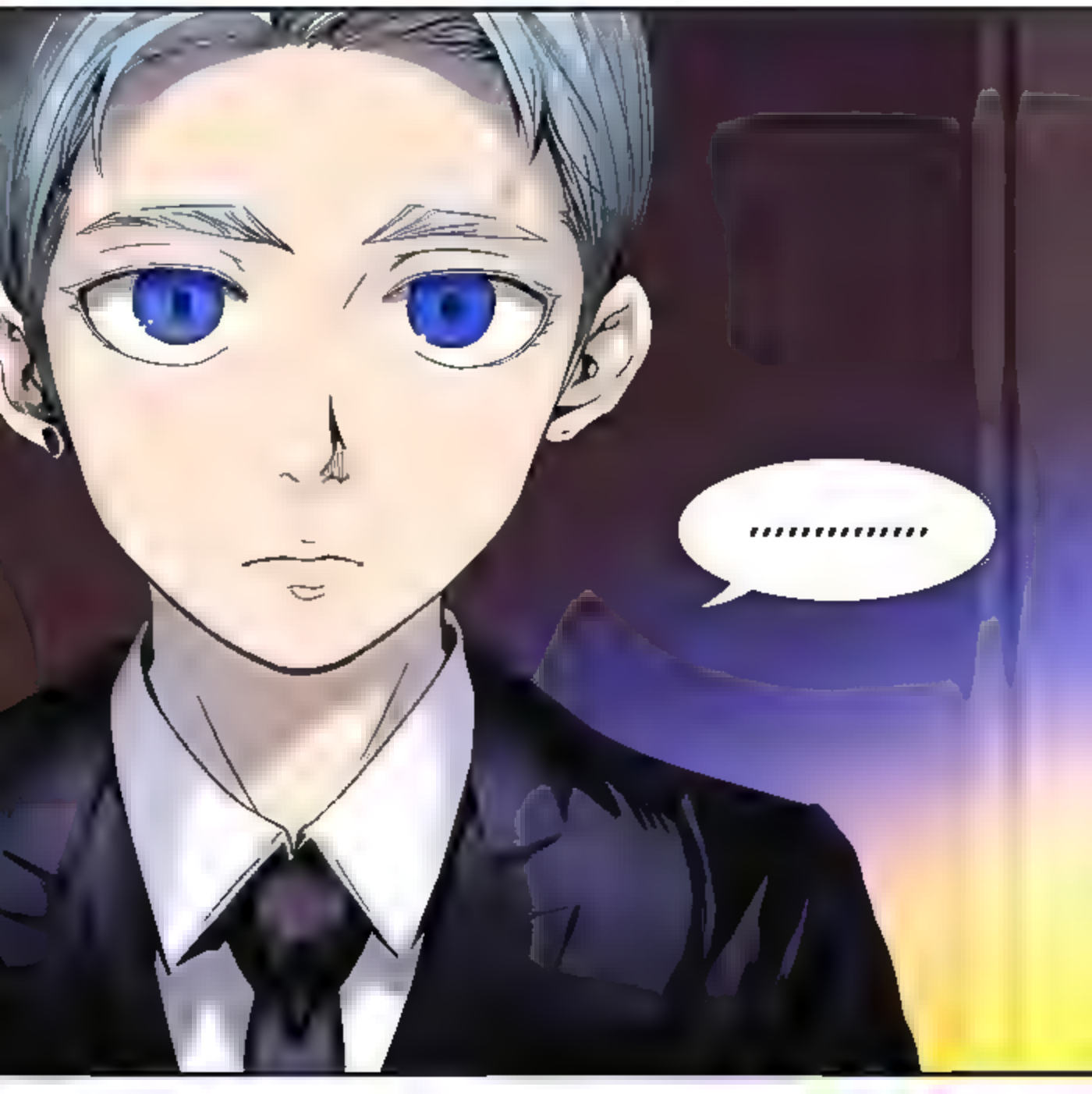

IT WAS THE DAY WHEN CHILDREN FROM THE 20 BRANCHES GATHERED TO COMPETE.
SHE DIDN'T HAVE TO ATTEND SINCE SHE WAS GOING TO BE THE PRINCESS..
BUT STRANGELY, SHE ENDED UP ATTENDING THAT DAY BECAUSE THE MAIN FAMILY SUMMONED HER.

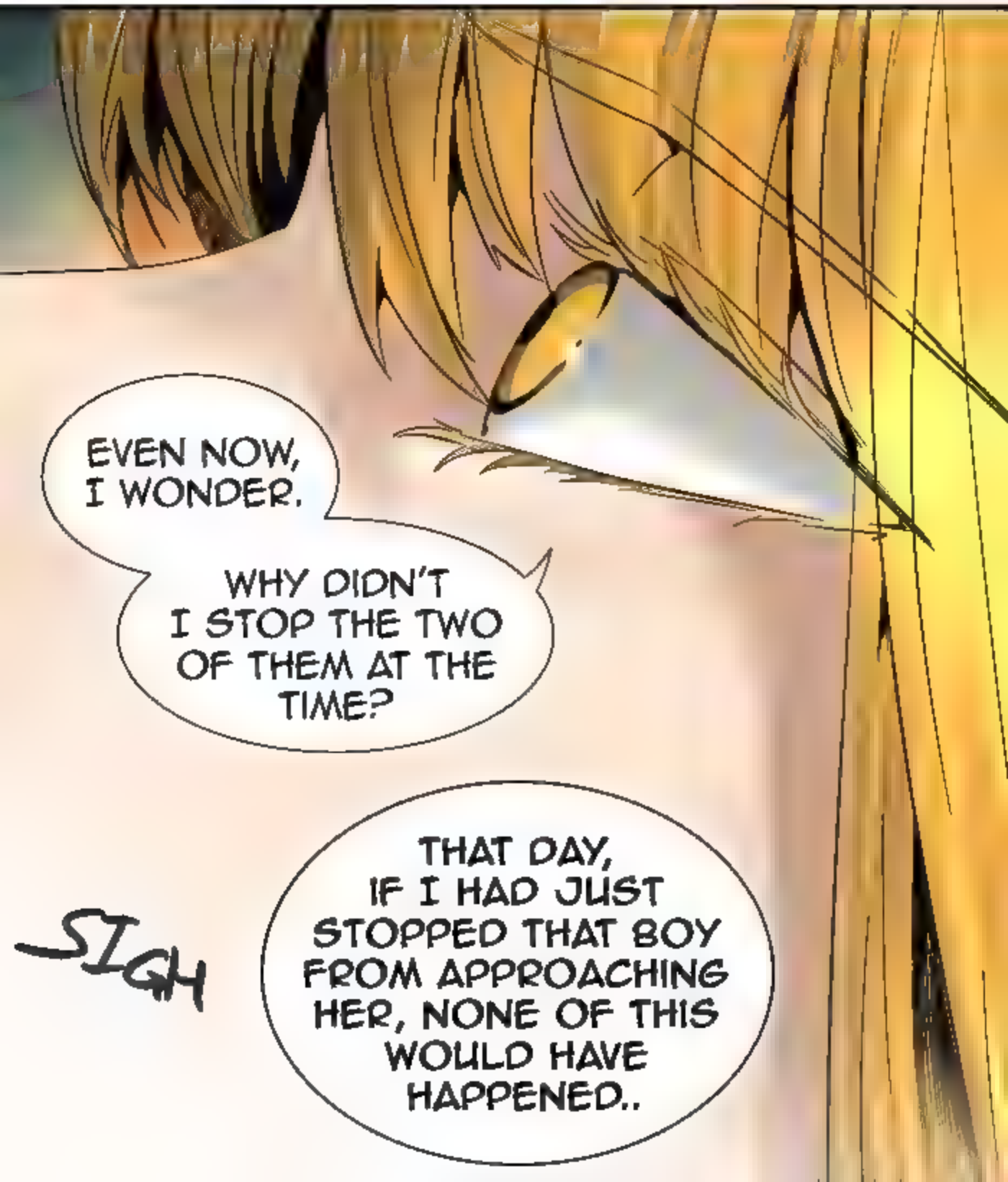

AND THAT'S WHERE SHE MET THAT BOY.


THE BOY POSSESSED THE MOST OBVIOUSLY EXTRAORDINARY ABILITIES OF ANY OF THE CHILDREN FROM THE 20 BRANCHES.

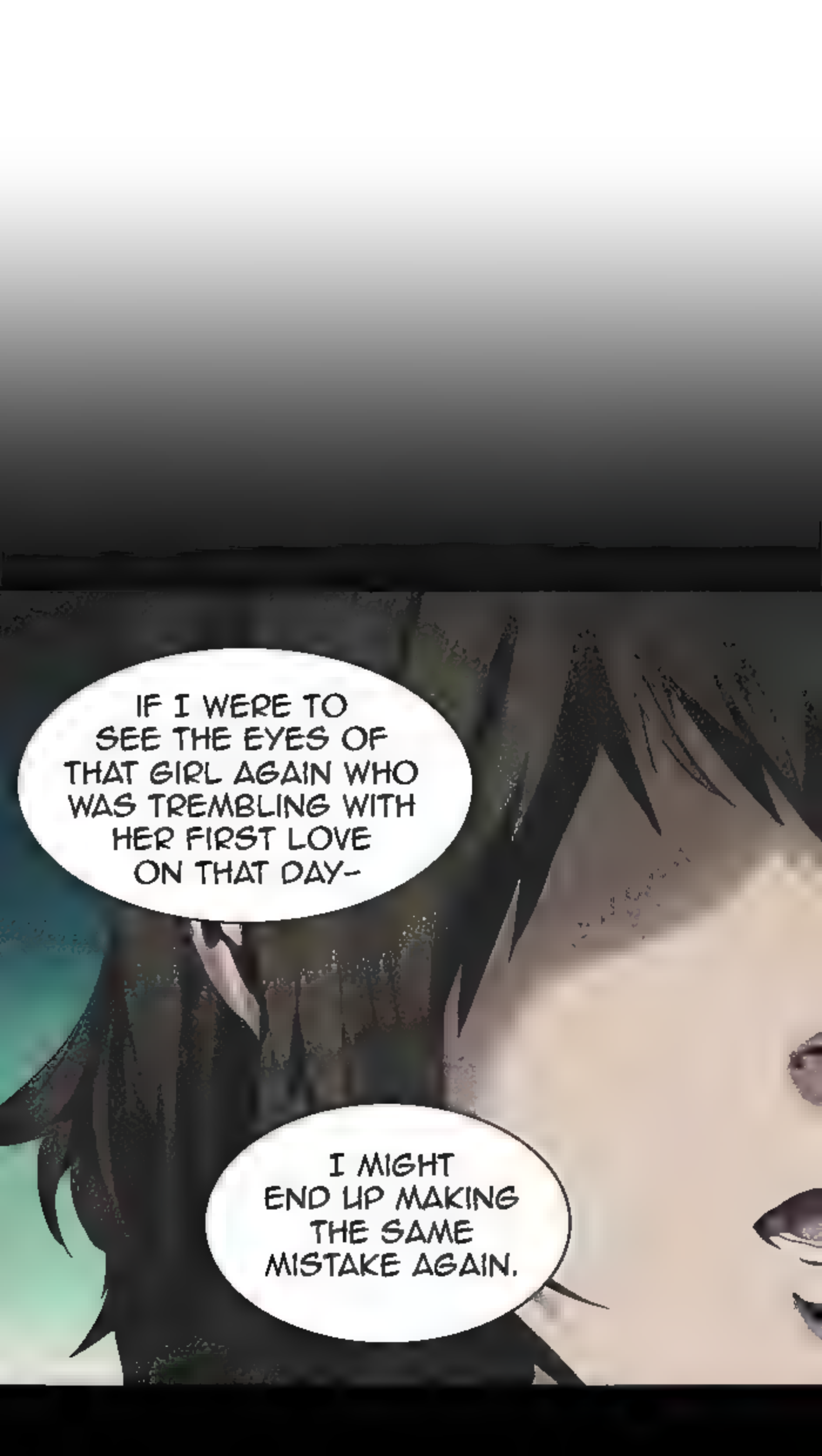
SHE FELL IN LOVE WITH HIM AT FIRST SIGHT.
A GIRL WHO WAS SOON SUPPOSED TO BECOME THE PRINCESS OF JAHAD, AND WHO WAS ABSOLUTELY NOT ALLOWED TO FALL IN LOVE,


HAD FALLED
IN LOVE.

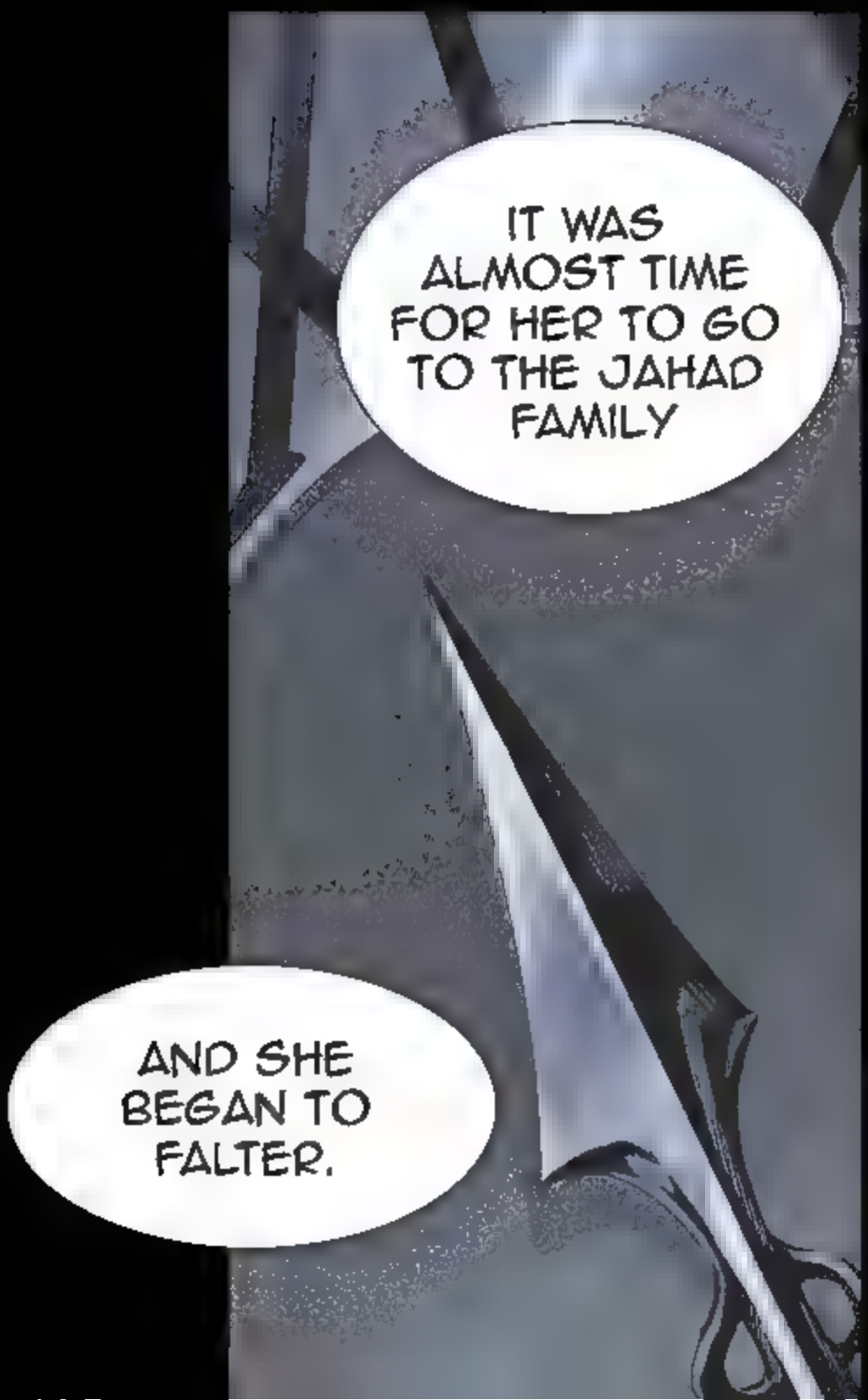



EVEN NOW, I WONDER.
WHY DIDN'T I STOP THE TWO OF THEM AT THE TIME?
THAT DAY, IF I HAD JUST STOPPED THAT BOY FROM APPROACHING HER, NONE OF THIS WOULD HAVE HAPPENED..
SIGH

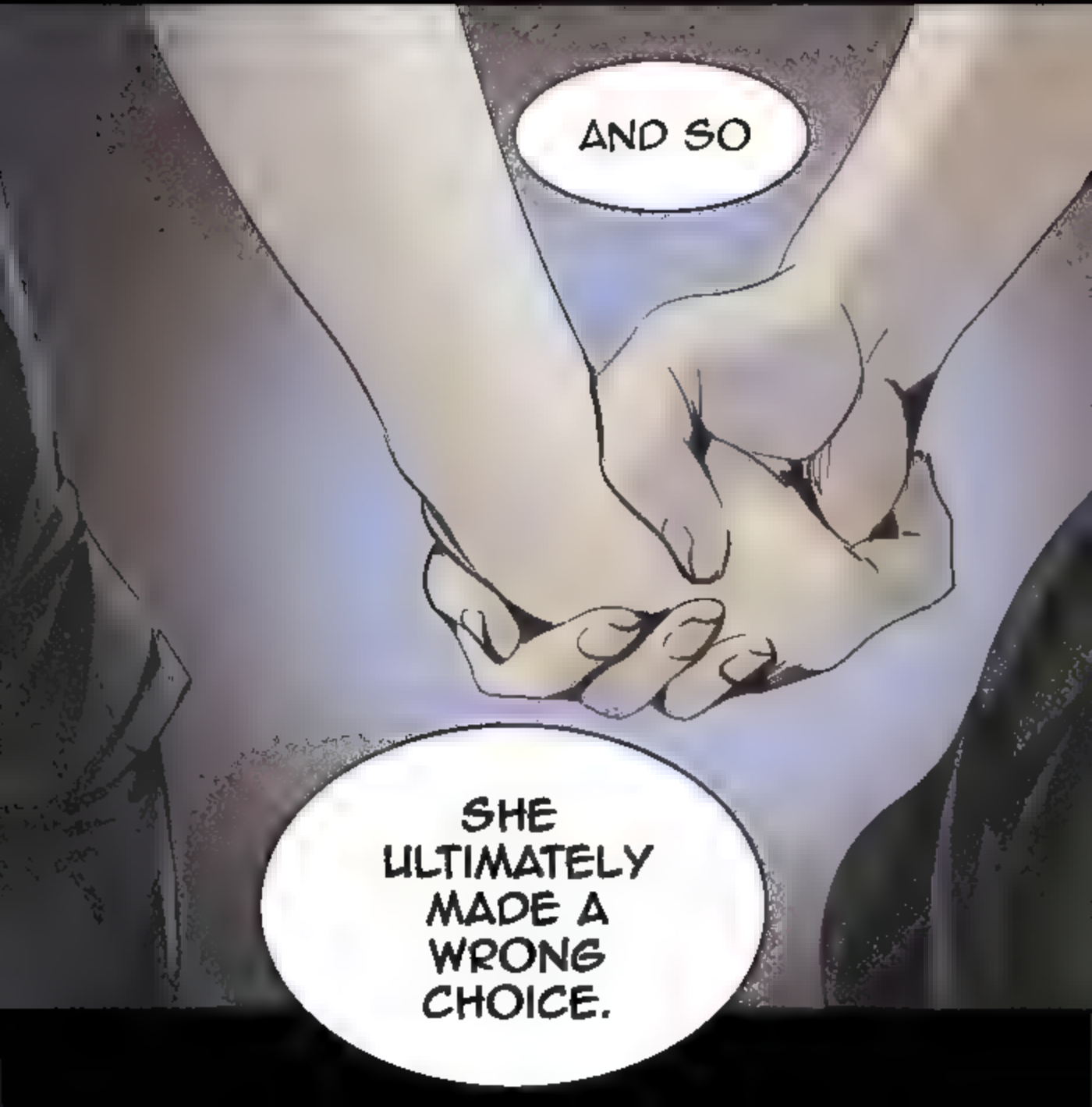
BUT..


IF I WERE TO SEE THE EYES OF THAT GIRL AGAIN WHO WAS TREMBLING WITH HER FIRST LOVE ON THAT DAY-
I MIGHT END UP MAKING THE SAME MISTAKE AGAIN.

THAT'S RIGHT. IT WAS BASICALLY UNCONTROLLABLE.
IT'S EXTREMELY NATURAL FOR A BOY AND A GIRL TO MEET AND LIKE EACH OTHER.
THE TIMING WAS SIMPLY VERY UNFORTUNATE.


IT WAS ALMOST TIME FOR HER TO GO TO THE JAHAD FAMILY
AND SHE BEGAN TO FALTER.

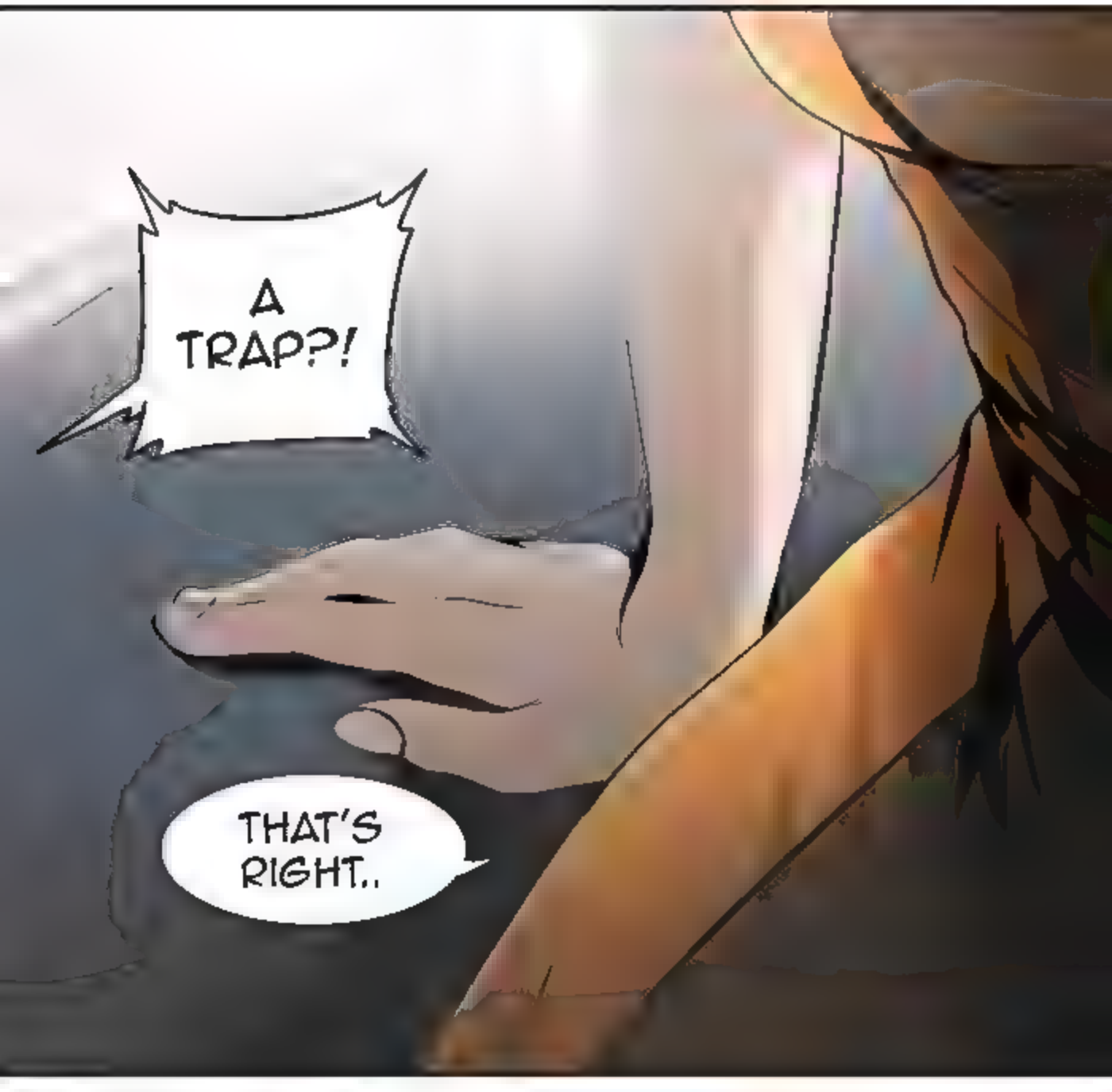
"I DON'T WANT TO BREAK UP WITH THIS BOY RIGHT NOW. CAN I REALLY LIVE THE REST OF MY LIFE WITHOUT LOVING ANYONE?"



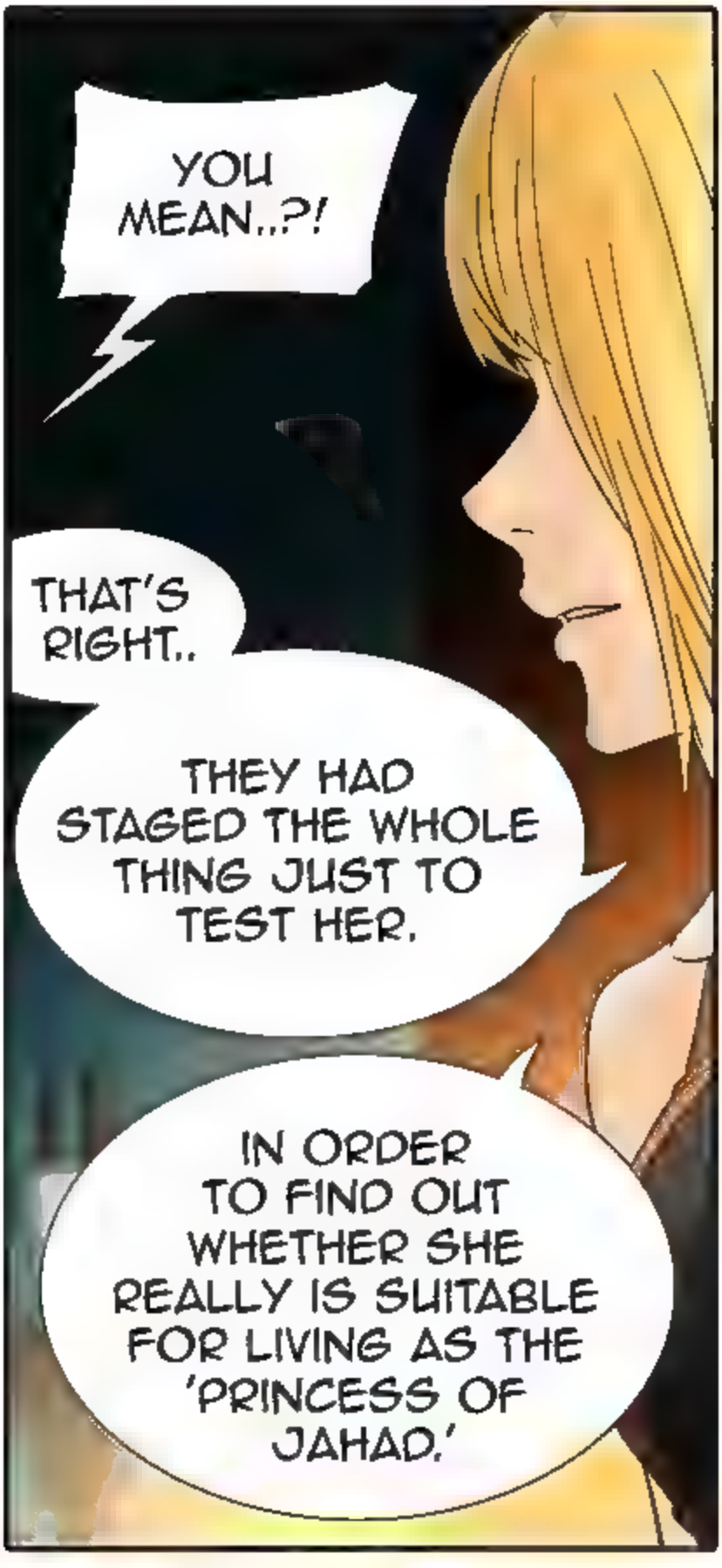
SHE RAN AWAY WITH THE BOY.

THEY COULDN'T ESCAPE FROM THE FLOATING SHIP,

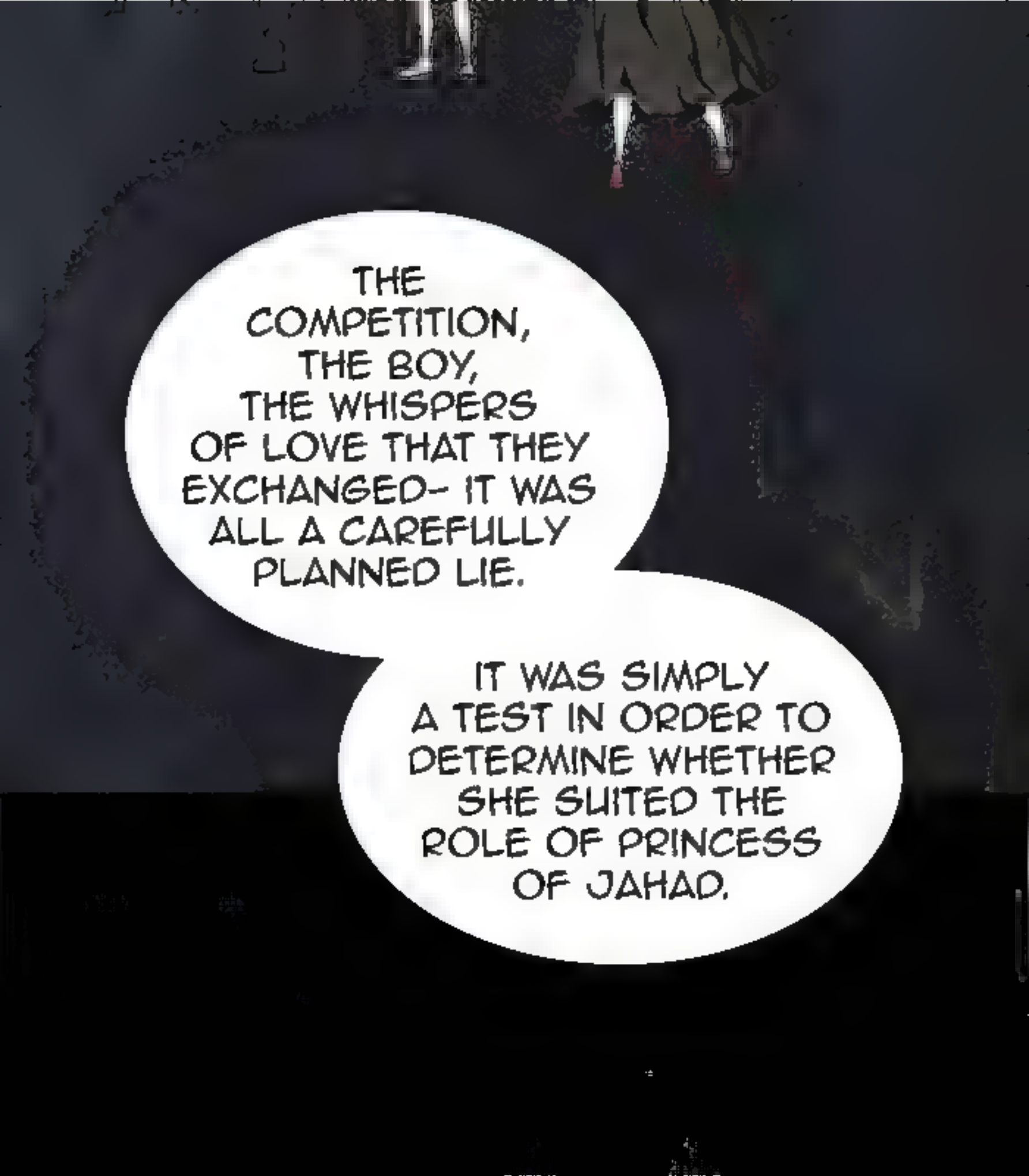
BUT BEING YOUNG, SHE WANTED TO TELL EVERYONE:
"I'M NOT FIT TO BECOME THE PRINCESS OF JAHAD. I JUST WANT TO LIVE A NORMAL LIFE AND FALL IN LOVE."
HOWEVER..
THAT WAS ALL A TRAP.


A TRAP?!
THAT'S RIGHT..

WAITING FOR HER AT THE PLACE WHERE SHE ARRIVED WITH THE BOY
....!!
WERE GUARDS WHO WERE FROM THE DIRECT LINE OF THE FAMILY
AND SOLDIERS SENT OUT BY THE JAHAD FAMILY.


YOU MEAN..?!
THAT'S RIGHT..
THEY HAD STAGED THE WHOLE THING JUST TO TEST HER.
IN ORDER TO FIND OUT WHETHER SHE REALLY IS SUITABLE FOR LIVING AS THE 'PRINCESS OF JAHAD.'

THE
WHOLE THING
WAS FAKE.

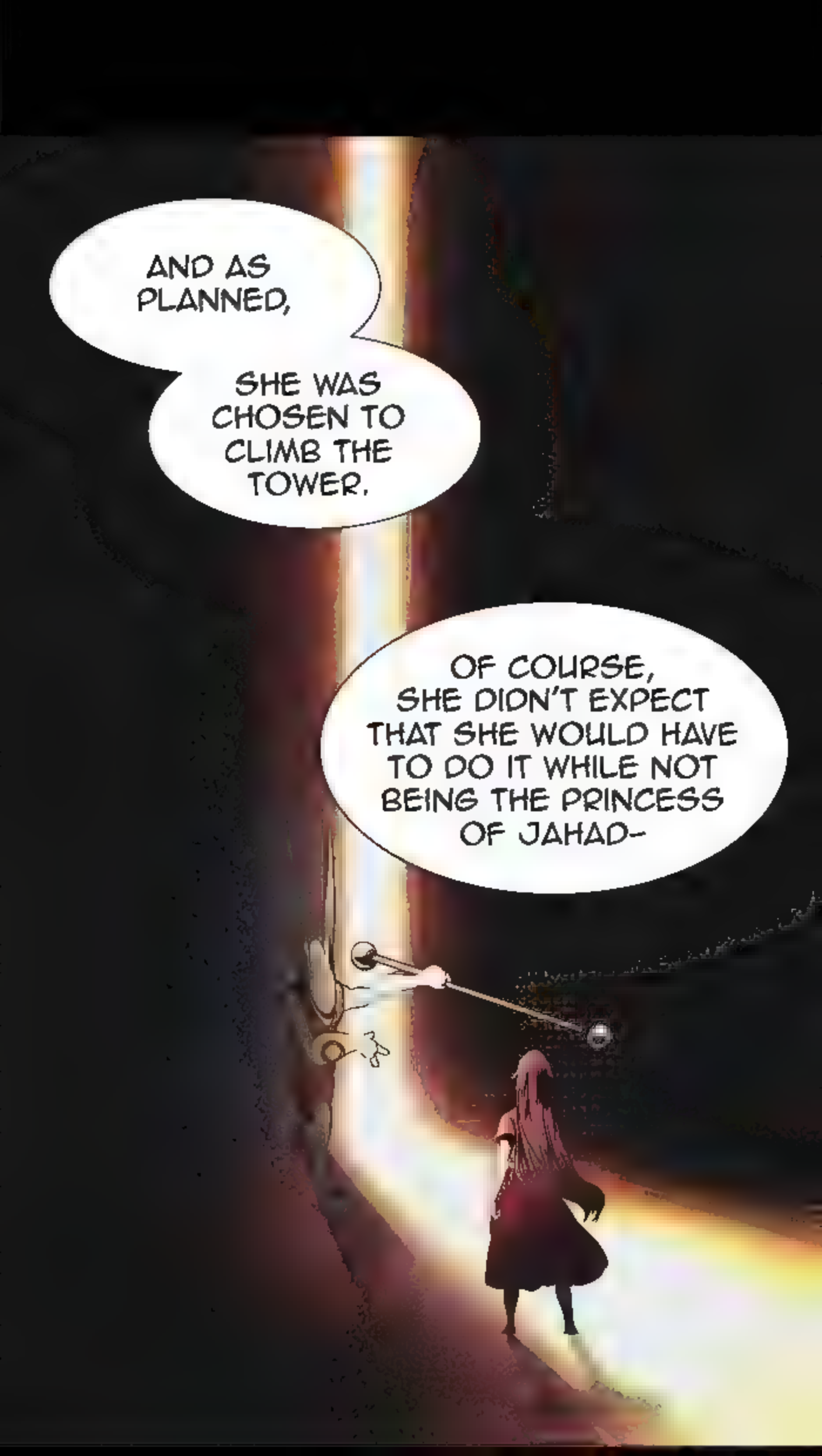

THE COMPETITION, THE BOY, THE WHISPERS OF LOVE THAT THEY EXCHANGED- IT WAS ALL A CAREFULLY PLANNED LIE.
IT WAS SIMPLY A TEST IN ORDER TO DETERMINE WHETHER SHE SUITED THE ROLE OF PRINCESS OF JAHAD.

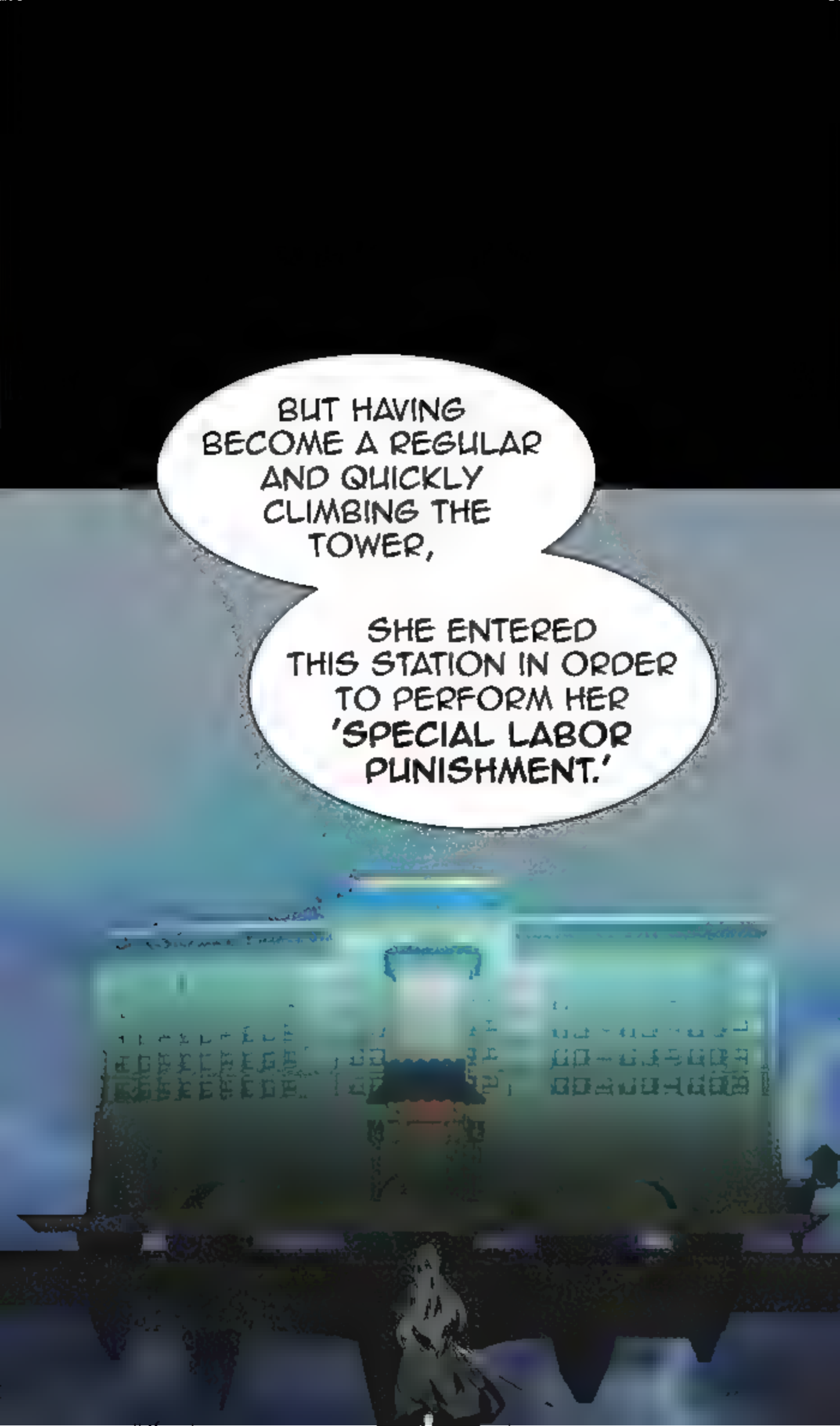
ULTIMATELY, SHE WAS NOT CHOSEN TO BE PRINCESS OF JAHAD.

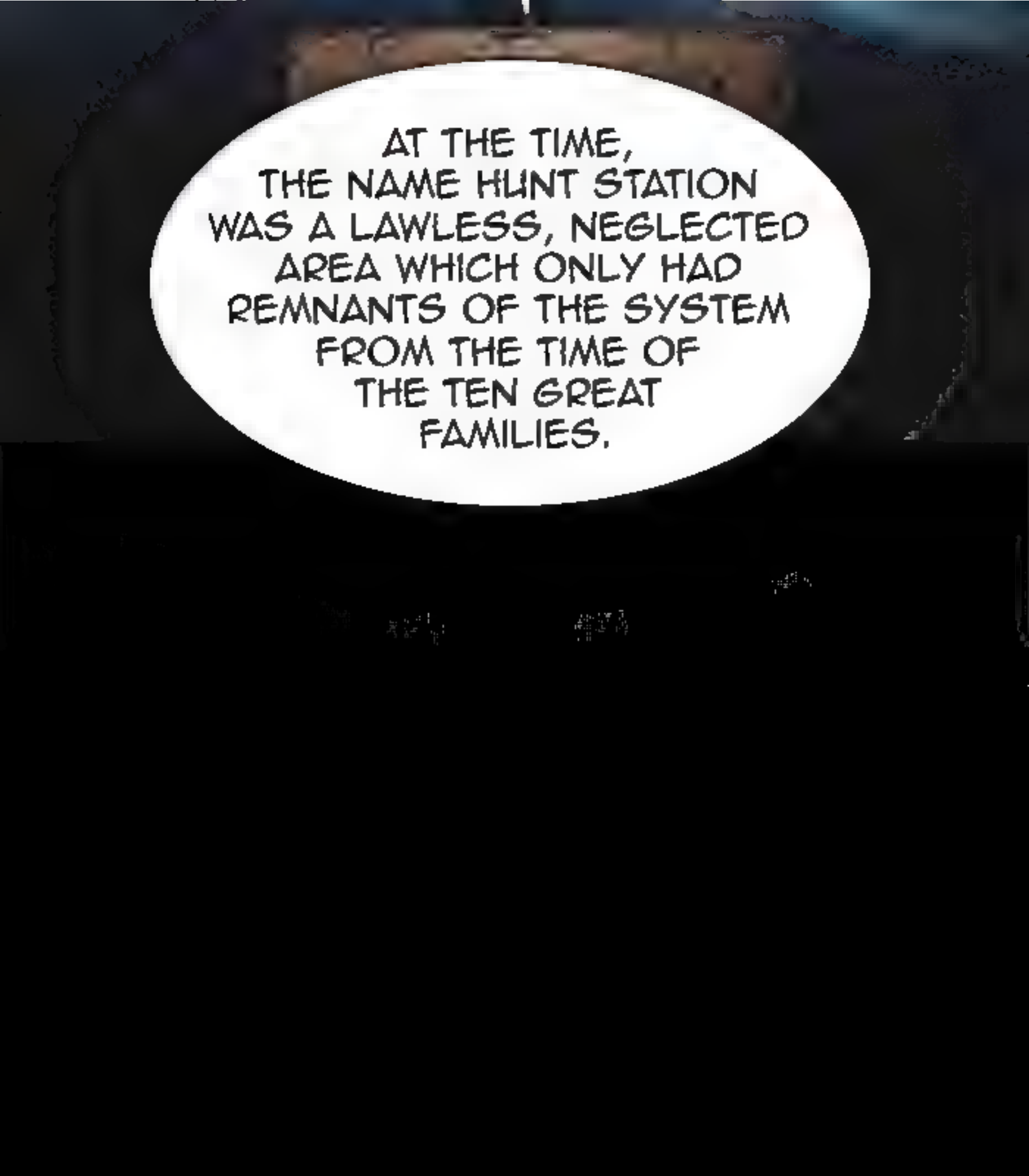
HEARING OF THIS INCIDENT, THE HEAD OF THE FAMILY WAS VERY MAD
AND ORDERED HER ENTIRE FAMILY TO BE IMPRISONED.

SHE REGRETTED HER DECISION, BUT THERE WAS NO WAY TO TURN THINGS BACK.
ALL THAT SHE HAD LEFT WERE REGRET, SELF-REPROACH..
AND A COLD HEART, HARDENED FROM BEING BETRAYED BY HER FIRST LOVE.

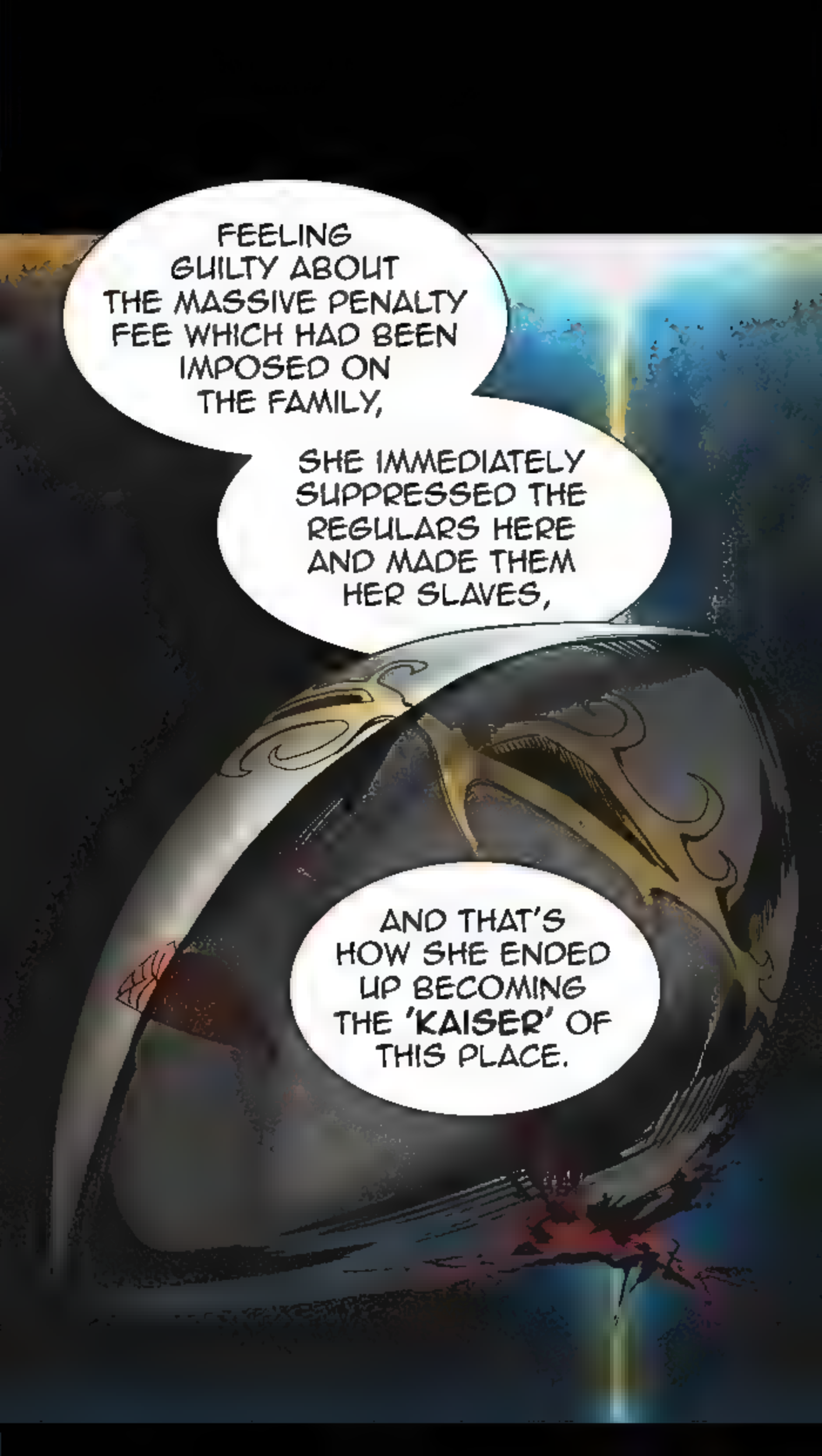
THE MAIN FAMILY IMPOSED A MASSIVE PENALTY FEE ON HER FAMILY.
IN PARTICULAR, THEY SENTENCED HER TO A 'VERY SPECIAL LABOR PUNISHMENT.'

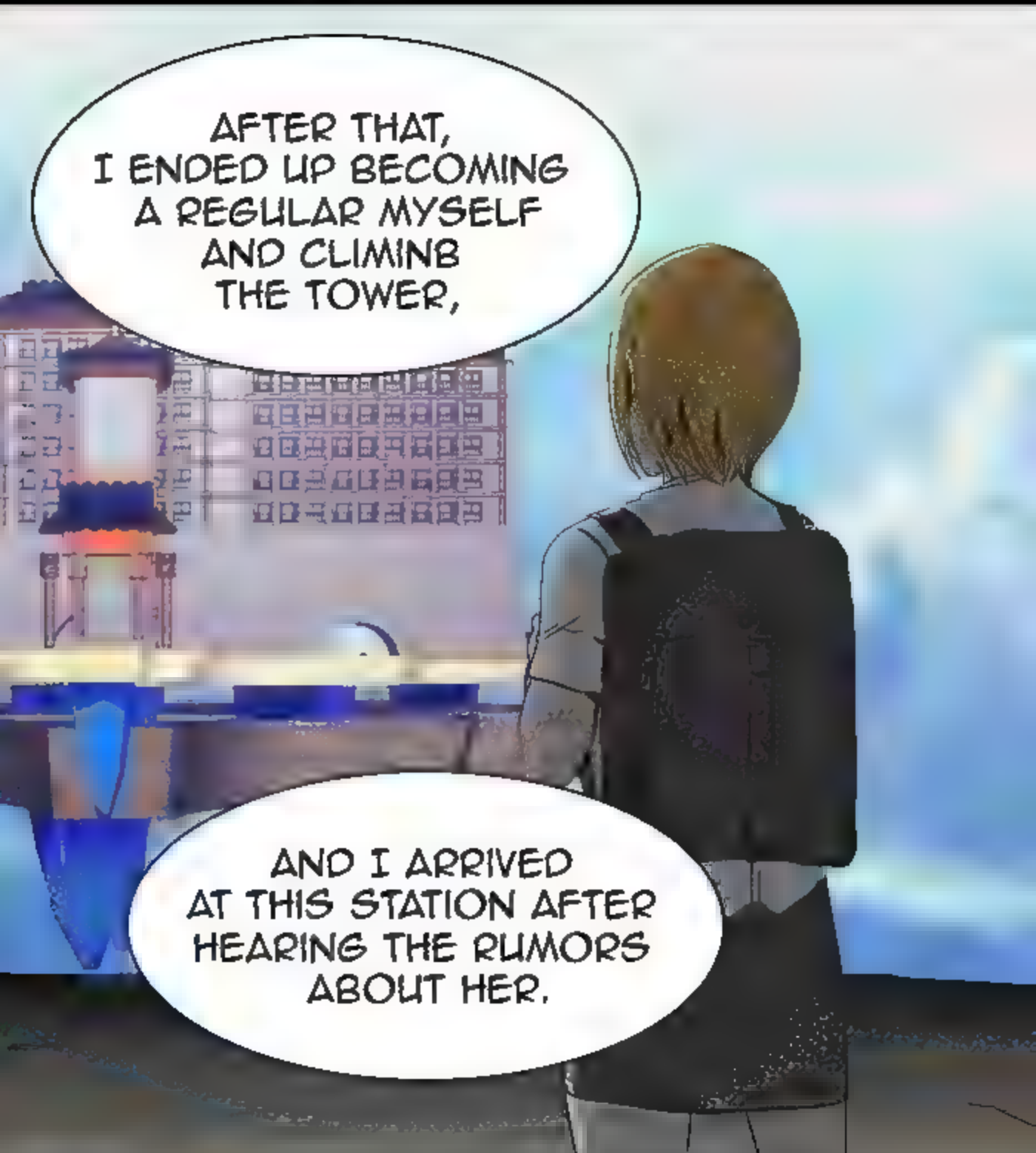

AND AS PLANNED,
SHE WAS CHOSEN TO CLIMB THE TOWER.
OF COURSE, SHE DIDN'T EXPECT THAT SHE WOULD HAVE TO DO IT WHILE NOT BEING THE PRINCESS OF JAHAD-


BUT HAVING BECOME A REGULAR AND QUICKLY CLIMBING THE TOWER,
SHE ENTERED THIS STATION IN ORDER TO PERFORM HER 'SPECIAL LABOR PUNISHMENT.'


AT THE TIME,
THE NAME HUNT STATION
WAS A LAWLESS, NEGLECTED
AREA WHICH ONLY HAD
REMNANTS OF THE SYSTEM
FROM THE TIME OF
THE TEN GREAT
FAMILIES.

IT SEEMS LIKE THE FAMILIES CONQUERED THIS PLACE LONG AGO
AND WERE PLANNING ON TRANSFORMING IT INTO ITS CURRENT FORM.
A PYRAMID SLAVE SYSTEM WHICH IS IMPOSSIBLE TO ESCAPE. TRADING THE NAMES OF REGULARS.
SHE WAS THE BEST PERSON TO CARRY OUT THIS PLAN.
THE FAMILY SENT HER HERE, PROMISING TO USE PART OF THE MONEY THAT SHE EARNS ON THE NAME HUNT STATION TO REPAY HER FAMILY DEBT.


FEELING GUILTY ABOUT THE MASSIVE PENALTY FEE WHICH HAD BEEN IMPOSED ON THE FAMILY,
SHE IMMEDIATELY SUPPRESSED THE REGULARS HERE AND MADE THEM HER SLAVES,
AND THAT'S HOW SHE ENDED UP BECOMING THE 'KAISER' OF THIS PLACE.


AFTER THAT,
I ENDED UP BECOMING
A REGULAR MYSELF
AND CLIMINB
THE TOWER,
AND I ARRIVED
AT THIS STATION AFTER
HEARING THE RUMORS
ABOUT HER.

DURING THE TIME THAT I HADN'T SEEN HER, SHE HAD ALREADY BECOME THE CRUEL RULER OF THIS STATION.
SHE DIDN'T SHOW ME EVEN A GLANCE OF THE FACE HIDDEN BEHIND HER MASK, EITHER.
AND..I DECIDED TO SERVE HER AGAIN.

A VICIOUS CYCLE OF IMPRISONING REGULARS, TREATING THEM LIKE SLAVES, SELLING THEIR NAMES, HOLDING FESTIVALS, AND COLLECTING HUGE PROFITS.

KAISER COMPLETED THE SYSTEM IN A SHOCKINGLY COLD-HEARTED MANNER.

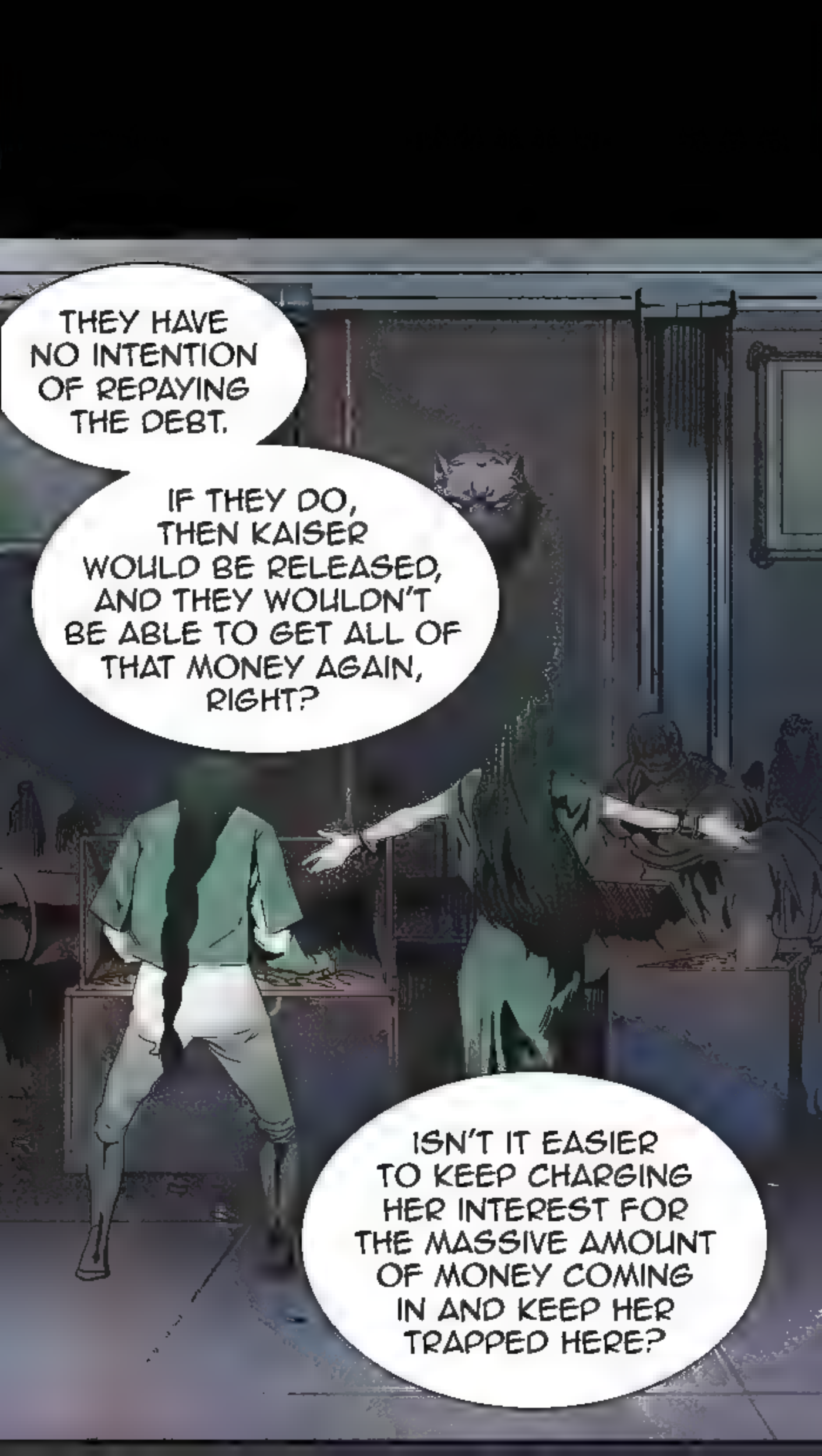
FOR THE LAST THOUSAND YEARS, VAST SUMS OF MONEY HAVE GONE TO THE FAMILY THROUGH THIS PLACE-
SO I FIGURED THAT OBVIOUSLY KAISER'S DEBT MUST HAVE BEEN REPAID BY NOW.
BUT THE MASSIVE DEBT IMPOSED ON KAISER AND HER FAMILY HAS NOT DECREASED AT ALL.

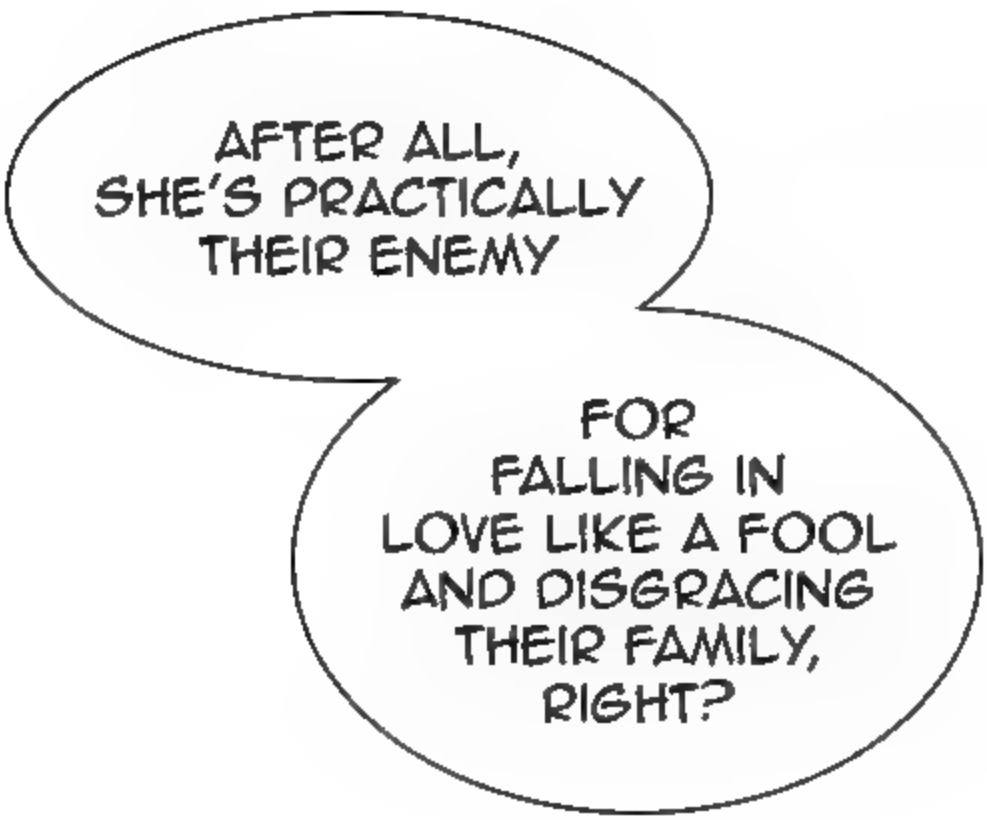
...WHAT?!
I ASKED THEM TO CHECK AGAIN SEVERAL TIMES, BUT THE RESPONSE WAS ALWAYS: "IT HAS NOT DECREASED."

THE MONEY HASN'T GONE ANYWHERE ELSE. I CHECKED THE MONEY THAT WAS SENT TO THE GREY WOLF FAMILY..

THERE IS ONLY ONE POSSIBILITY-

HER FAMILY WASTED IT ALL.

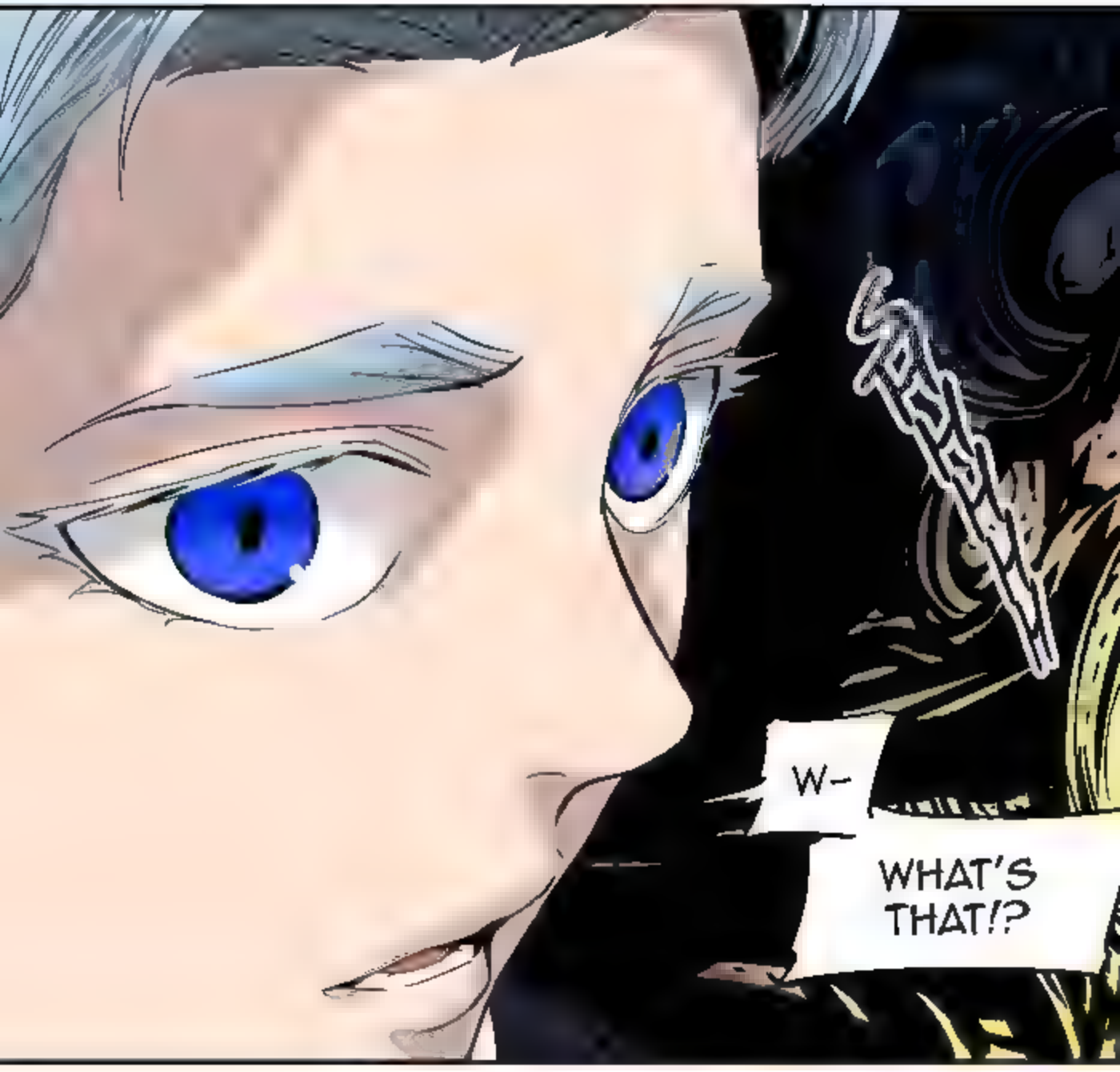

THEY HAVE NO INTENTION OF REPAYING THE DEBT.
IF THEY DO, THEN KAISER WOULD BE RELEASED, AND THEY WOULDN'T BE ABLE TO GET ALL OF THAT MONEY AGAIN, RIGHT?
ISN'T IT EASIER TO KEEP CHARGING HER INTEREST FOR THE MASSIVE AMOUNT OF MONEY COMING IN AND KEEP HER TRAPPED HERE?


AFTER ALL, SHE'S PRACTICALLY THEIR ENEMY
FOR FALLING IN LOVE LIKE A FOOL AND DISGRACING THEIR FAMILY, RIGHT?

BUT KAISER HASN'T PROTESTED AT ALL IN SPITE OF KNOWING ABOUT THIS.
KAISER INTENDS ON BEING PUNISHED HERE FOREVER
UNTIL HER FAMILY FORGIVES HER.
.....!!

IF YOU KNOW OF A WAY TO RESCUE KAISER FROM THESE OPPRESSIVE RESTRAINTS,
I WILL TELL YOU HOW TO GET TO THE GALLERY.

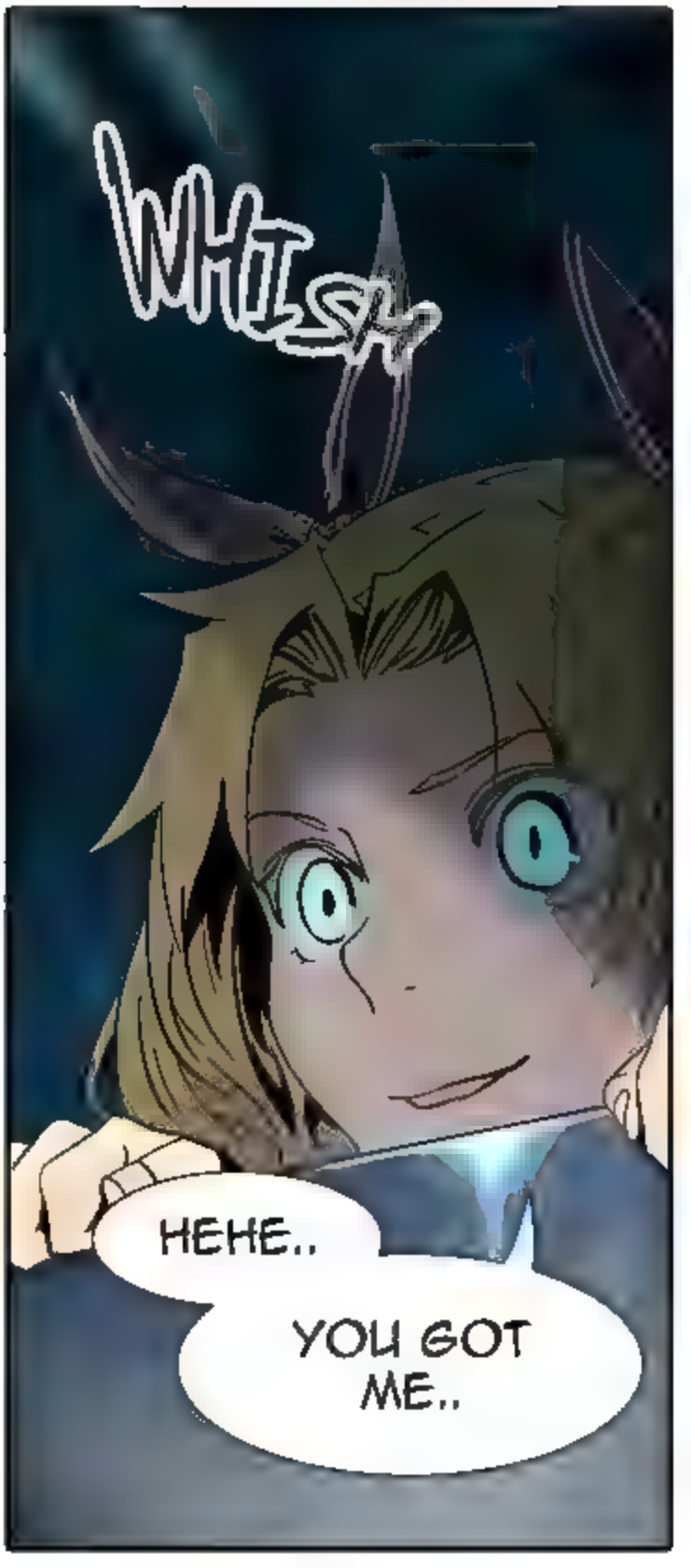
BUT IF YOU DO NOT KNOW A WAY TO DO SO-
...?!

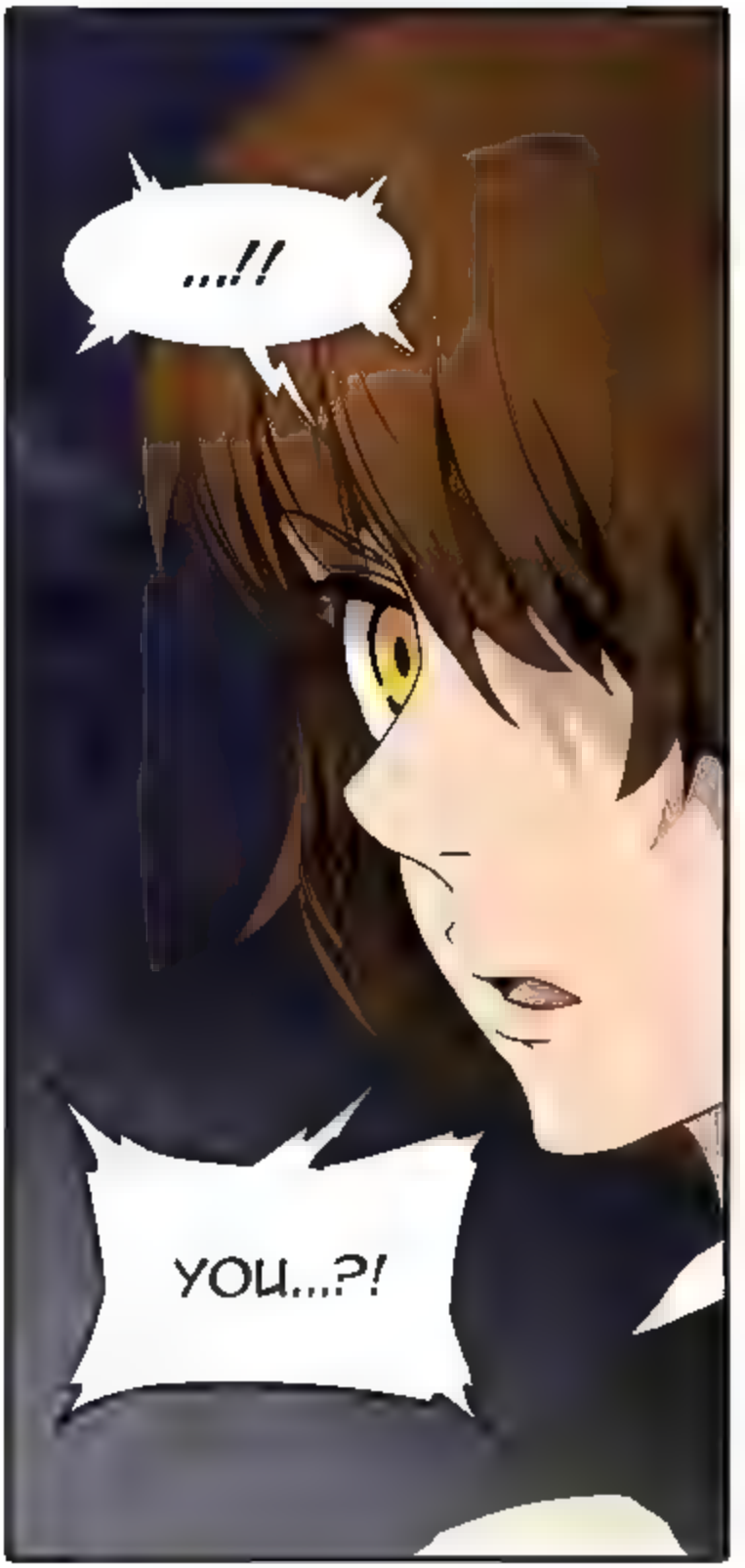

W-
WHAT'S THAT!?

THEN THIS 'SHADOW FOX'-
!!
WILL LEAD YOU ALL TO HELL.

COME OUT.

WHOEVER
YOU ARE.


WHISH
HEHE..
YOU GOT ME..


...!!
YOU...?!

TAP
LILIAL JAHAD!?

YOU..!!!
WHAT THE HELL?!
WHAT ARE YOU DOING HERE?!
WEREN'T YOU ON THE 45TH FLOOR?

IS THAT ANY WAY TO TALK TO YOUR SO-CALLED SISTER?
THIS IS WHY THEY SHOULDN'T CHOOSE PEOPLE TO BE PRINCESSES WHO LACK A BASIC FOUNDATION.
SHUT UP, YOU B!TCH!
WHISH—!
YOU CALL YOURSELF MY SISTER AFTER SETTING ME UP LIKE THIS!?

SETTING YOU UP? YOU'RE SO MEAN~
WASN'T THIS A CLEAR DEAL? YOU'RE THE IDIOT FOR FALLING FOR IT.
HAH~
.....I CAN'T STAND THE WAY SHE TALKS TO ME.
AH- WELL ACTUALLY, I WAS JUST GOING TO STAND BY AND WATCH, BUT THE SITUATION JUST GOT SO INTERESTING-
INTERESTING?

WHOOSH
OF COURSE!! NOW THAT JUE VIOLE GRACE HAS APPEARED!!!
PLUS, I CAN'T BELIEVE THAT A SLAYER CANDIDATE LIKE HIM KNEW YOU, THE PRINCESS OF JAHAD!

THIS IS THE MOTHER OF ALL EXCLUSIVE SCOOPS!!
.....!
I WANT TO HURRY UP AND TELL DAD THIS SO BADLY THAT IT'S DRIVING ME NUTS!

HM~
BUT HOW DO YOU TWO KNOW EACH OTHER?
ARE YOU FRIENDS~?
..W-WELL...
THIS IS DANGEROUS..!
IT'S WAY TOO DANGEROUS TO LET THAT CRAZY B!TCH KNOW...

IF YOU HAVE SO MUCH STUFF TO HIDE!!
WHOOSH
IT ONLY MAKES ME WANT TO FORCE YOU TO TELL ME!!
HUH!?

FLASH

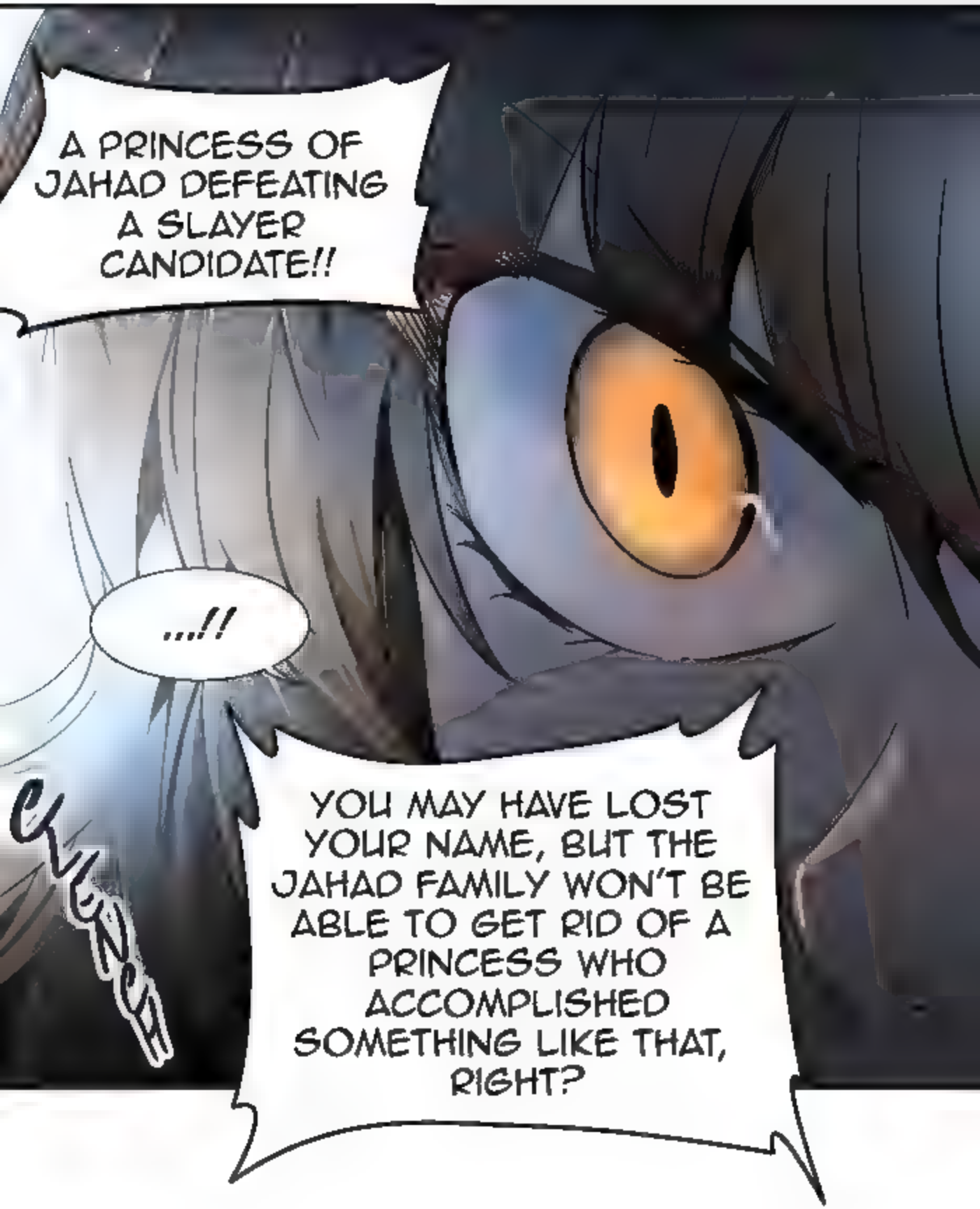
STILL, FROM YOUR PERSPECTIVE,
ISN'T IT LUCKY THAT VIOLE IS PARTICIPATING IN THIS FESTIVAL?
?!

SIGH
IF YOU USE HIM WELL-!!

YOU COULD END UP SAVING YOUR OWN LIFE!!
UGH-!!

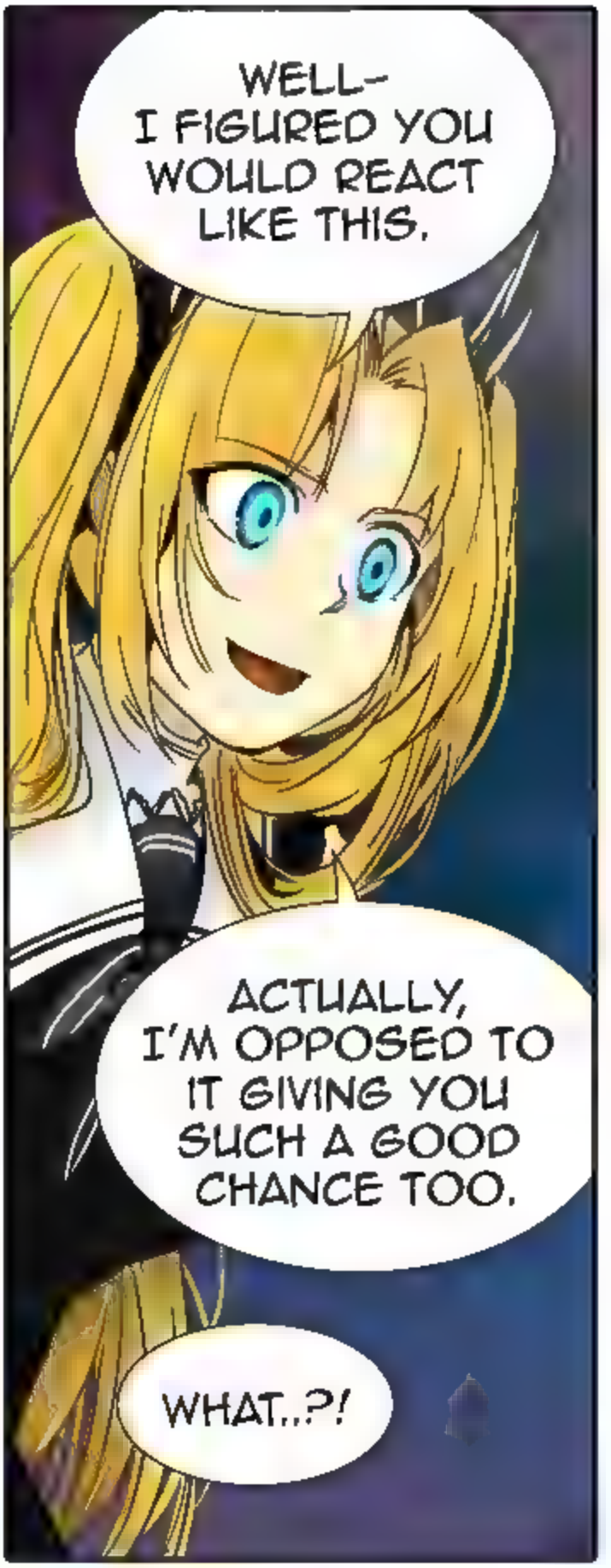
CRACK
CRACK
...USE HIM?
WHAT ARE YOU TALKING ABOUT!?

YOU JUST HAVE TO DEFEAT HIM IN THE FESTIVAL.
JUE VIOLE GRACE, I MEAN!
CLENCH
KRRRR


A PRINCESS OF JAHAD DEFEATING A SLAYER CANDIDATE!!
...!!
YOU MAY HAVE LOST YOUR NAME, BUT THE JAHAD FAMILY WON'T BE ABLE TO GET RID OF A PRINCESS WHO ACCOMPLISHED SOMETHING LIKE THAT, RIGHT?

SLAM
AGH-!!
CHHHH

TAP
DON'T BE RIDICULOUS!! WHO DO YOU THINK YOU ARE, TELLING ME TO FIGHT!!?
I'M GOING TO FIGHT ANYWAY!!
KKKKKK

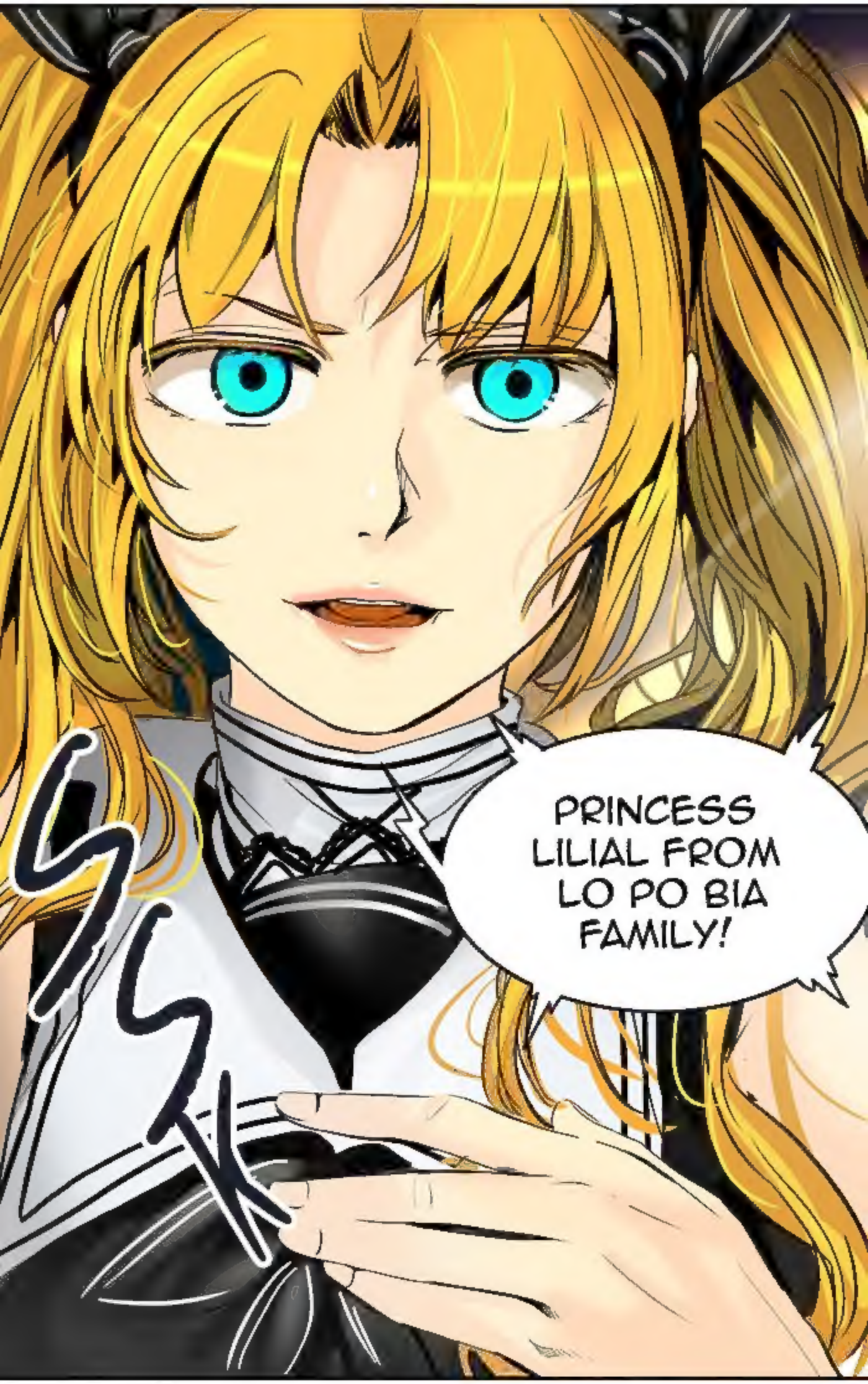

WELL-
I FIGURED YOU WOULD REACT LIKE THIS.
ACTUALLY, I'M OPPOSED TO IT GIVING YOU SUCH A GOOD CHANCE TOO.
WHAT..?!

A JAHAD PRINCESS KILLING A SLAYER CANDIDATE..!
I CAN'T JUST STAND BY AND LET YOU GET ALL THE GLORY FOR SOMETHING LIKE THAT, RIGHT?

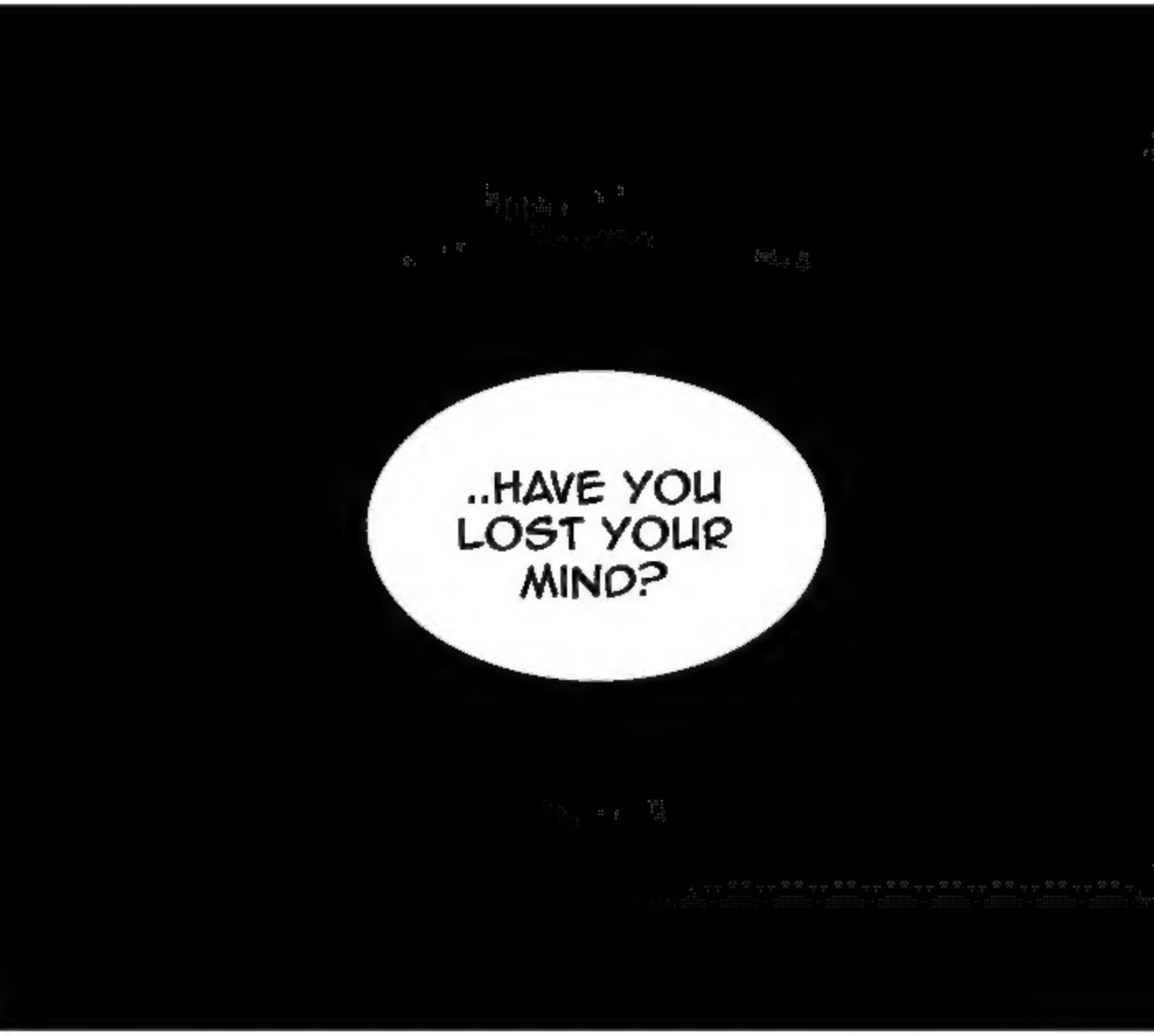
KAISER MAY BE SATISFIED WITH JUST MAKING YOU GUYS FIGHT-
BUT I THINK THAT ROLE SUITS ME BETTER!

....WHAT?!
YOU MEAN..!

THAT'S RIGHT!!
WHISH—
IT'S ME, NOT YOU, WHO IS GOING TO FIGHT WITH JUE VIOLE GRACE AND WIN IN THIS FESTIVAL!!


PRINCESS LILIAL FROM LO PO BIA FAMILY!

.....
CLENCH



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